VERDICT: OSCAR GRANT MURDER TRIAL (See page 5)

COMMEMORATOR

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CCBPP Hosts Oakland-Santiago de Cuba Sister Cities 'Cuban Five' Event

On the evening of May 28, Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) hosted and co-sponsored a Cuban Five Solidarity Celebration as one of ten sessions comprising a three-day Oakland-Santiago de Cuba Sister Cities Association Summit held May 27-29 in Oakland, California. The Summit marked the tenth anniversary of the Oakland chapter of the U.S.-Cuba Sister Cities Association (USCSCA).

"The standing-room only celebration at the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party was the highlight of the weekend summit," stated Tina Flores, Secretary and Director of the Oakland Sister Cities Association and organizer of the three-day summit.

CCBPP Chairperson Melvin Dickson opened the Friday night Cuban Five event by welcoming Alicia Jrapko, Director of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, and members of the Bay Area Cuban Five support committee to CCBPP's south Berkeley office. Jrapko presented two films on the case, one narrated by actor-activist Danny Glover and another by the noted author Alice Walker, and then led a question and answer period. Discussion followed the film showings, with refreshments featuring traditional Cuban beans and rice.

CCBPP Photo

Alicia Jrapko, Director of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban Five, flanked by Melvin Dickson, CCBPP Chairman, and Raymond Joe, CCBPP Board member.

During introductory remarks, Dickson recalled how he had met Alicia Jrapko last fall and subsequently invited her to speak about the plight of the Cuban Five at the 43rd Anniversary Celebration of the founding of the Black Panther Party held at Oakland's Laney College in October 2009.

"So few people in the United States have even heard of the Cuban Five's cases because of the U.S. media blackout on the topic," explained

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Haiti After the Quake: 'Disaster Capitalism' vs. International Solidarity

Photo by www.Taringa.net user elcanserbero

Hundreds of thousands of survivors of Haiti's devastating January 12 earthquake lack access to medical care, food, potable water and housing. Disease is spreading in tent cities.

By Melvin Dickson

As news spread of the horrific 7.2 earthquake that struck Haiti on January 12, Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) received many calls from members with relatives and friends in Haiti, informing us about various efforts on behalf of the Haitian people. The Haiti Emergency Relief Fund (HERF), co-founded in Berkeley, California by Pierre LaBossiere (also a board member of CCBPP), put out an immediate call for mobilization of people and no-strings-attached resources to aid the citizens of Haiti.

Estimates of deaths directly caused by the trembler are as high as 300,000. In addition to those killed directly by the impact of the quake, many died, and are continuing to die, from the lack of clean water, sanitary conditions, medicines or food. More than 300,000 people were injured and over 1 million made homeless.

Haiti was already the poorest nation in the Western Hemisphere *prior to* the massive quake, epicentered within ten miles of Port-au-Prince, Haiti's capital. Over 6 million people were already suffering from extreme poverty. According to Haiti President René Préval, before the quake, 30% of Haiti's population above age 25 was illiterate, 25% of children had not been to school and those in school "had not enjoyed appropriate conditions."

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EDITORIAL

Bailouts, Handouts Only Further Workers' Impoverishment

By Melvin Dickson

With President Obama being the first U.S. president of African American heritage, and being African American myself, it can be mighty tempting to try to overlook the obvious: this administration's policies are continuing U.S. military aggression and build-up around the globe and catering to the international monopoly capitalists' drive for profits at home and abroad. But to succumb to that temptation would be to irresponsibly ignore the facts in front of us; it avoids the real work we have to do here and now in order to win the power to make real change.

The U.S. population is suffering increased costs of living, long-term joblessness and major cuts in nearly all public services that promote the health and wellbeing of working-class people. Foreclosures, evictions, household utilities shutoffs for non-payment and bankruptcies are all on the rise. In some states the number of families relying on food stamps jumped 75% in the last five years.

Unemployment for African Americans is now at a 25-year high, with the national official rate being 17.2%, up from 13.5% in March of 2009. Jobless rates in the states of Michigan, Alabama, Illinois, Ohio and South Carolina are now officially over 20%.

Research from the Economic Policy Institute reported that, based on Bureau of Labor Statistics and Moody's Economy reports, unemployment for whites will rise another 5% from the beginning of the "recessions" in December 2007 to the third quarter of 2010, and during that same period it will climb 8.6% for African Americans and 7.9% for Hispanics.

Even while the mainstream media promulgates the notion of an alleged "recovery," their own statistics show unemployment will continue to grow, hitting those who had jobs in manufacturing and construction the hardest while cities and states cut services to the bone.

And whereas, in the 1970s, one out of five neighborhoods in the urban centers lived in poverty, today it is one out of two.

Hence, the desperation in our communities continues to mount. The U.S. has more prisoners and parolees than any other nation in the world — over 2 million Americans — the vast majority being at or below the poverty level at the time of arrest. With roughly 5% of the world's population, the U.S. houses about 25% of the world's prisoners. Not coincidentally, the U.S. has a multibillion-dollar, heavily privatized prison industrial complex profiting federal and state governments and the private sector through joint venture contracts.

State and federal authorities claim there is no alternative to their decisions to close more public schools, community health clinics, fire departments and libraries; they say there is no money for lifesaving services for poor and working people; they endanger public safety by deferring infrastructure repairs, *yet these same government officials persist in granting major corporations billions of dollars in tax breaks.*

Illustration by Jonik

A small class of the very wealthy — energy delivery corporations, the insurance industry, financial firms, pharmaceutical giants, etc. — gamble with our lives while reaping record-breaking profits. And they do this with direct government complicity.

The recent passage of a national health reform bill is one such example. It does not meet the comprehensive health needs of low- and middle-income communities; instead the federal government handed insurance companies at least $447 billion in taxpayer money to subsidize the purchase of their shoddy "coverage." The new federal law does not fulfill a promise for free or affordable health care services; it requires millions of Americans to buy private medical insurance and then penalizes individuals and employers who cannot afford to do so for not paying mandatory premiums.

According to *The New York Times*, the health reform act makes some provision for unaffordable premiums, but the law defines "unaffordable premium" as one that costs over 9.5% of the insured's household income. Imposing a requirement on a single parent or sole breadwinner to pay 9.5% of her or his income on a health insurance premium would be financially devastating for anyone with a full-time job earning 200% or less of the minimum wage. In major U.S. cities today, to pay the market rent alone requires working an equivalent of more than three full-time minimum-wage jobs or 130 hours per week: a physical impossibility.

Low-income households must juggle payments for utilities, food, clothing, transportation and health care and pay rent or a mortgage. This definition of "unaffordable" mandatory health insurance premiums is not simply a farce, but would pile legal problems on top of chronic financial crises for millions of Americans.

The health reform law sanctions workers and small-scale employers for inability to pay into this mandatory insurance scheme, while the federal government allocates vast sums of public money to "subsidize" an insurance industry already reaping mega-profits in the U.S. and abroad.

'Foreclosure Alternatives Program' a Failure

The rising tide of foreclosures impacts African Americans even more significantly than other racial groups. According to federal data, people of color are three times more likely to have sub-prime loans. High-interest loans account for 55% of loans to African Americans.

Despite President Obama's promise to assist American homeowners at risk of foreclosure, no one has offered a cure in the form of forgiving a substantive amount of mortgage debt. Rather, the government's program lowered mortgage payments for a small percentage of applicants, and only on a trial basis. Each is required to adhere to a new payment schedule; meanwhile their credit ratings are tarnished by the loan modification.

The program has been such a failure that, in November 2009, the government instituted the "foreclosure alternatives program" geared toward "allowing" those who could not keep up with their mortgage payments to

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Tea Parties and Fear of the Future

By Mumia Abu-Jamal

For every event in society, there are at least two sides; the side seen; and the side unseen.

Oftentimes, the side seen is simply that which coincides with media narratives, a perverse kind of shadow theater, where the media, by its choices of what to cover, and what to ignore, writes the script of social reality.

All of us saw this several years ago during the run to the Iraq War, where the government, using all the tools at its disposal, mobilized the media to make the Iraq War seem inevitable — and indeed, made the illogical seem logical.

According to some published accounts, Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein didn't believe the U.S. would actually invade until the bombs began to fall, for he — a logical man, after all — never could accept that Americans could be so silly.

The U.S., you remember, armed his forces during the ruinous war between Iraq and Iran, where nearly a million people died. He knew therefore, that a U.S. invasion would badly weaken Iraq, and strengthen Iran considerably.

This, he reasoned, made no sense from the standpoint of U.S. interests.

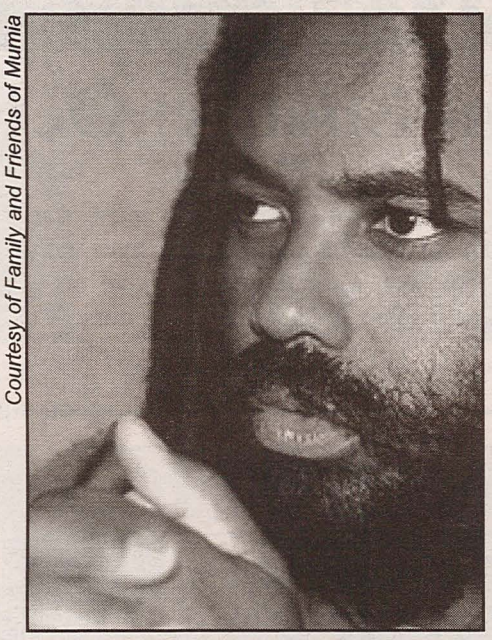
As time has taught us, governments can be silly, driven by constituencies and class forces into martial madness.

The Tea Party groups are one such constituency. They are a group trying to race back to a past that looks brighter in the present than it did in its own era.

They want the incomes that made upwardly mobile lifestyles possible for millions until policy makers sold them down the river with NAFTA (North American Free Trade Agreement) and other such pacts which rushed manufacturing jobs out of America forever.

They want the economic security that their grandparents fought for, without the unions which made that security possible.

In essence, they want yesterday, without the struggles that shaped those days.



Courtesy of Family and Friends of Mumia

Mumia Abu-Jamal, journalist and political prisoner.

They want white supremacy (with a few colored tokens), English only spoken (again, ignoring the many tongues of their grandparents), and eternal war against the threatening, dark Other (Muslims, Chinese, Blacks, Mexicans, Venezuelans, etc.)

Isn't it ironic that they chose an historical image, The Boston Tea Party, where Bostonians dressed like Indians, to sabotage, destroy, and throw overboard shipments of British tea, to protest taxes? I've often wondered, why did they dress like Indians? Why didn't they simply wear masks?

Why didn't they wear their own clothes — or their own faces — unless they feared the repressive responses of the British Army?

Why dress as Indians, unless they were trying to provoke an Anglo-American attack against neighboring Indian tribes?

The Boston Tea Party always struck me as an action laced with fear.

Perhaps it is thus fitting that such an historical image arises in the present age.

For, above all, they fear the one constant in the universe: Change.

[Column written 4/24/10]

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Mumia Action Alert

Supreme Court Opens Door to Execution

By Jeff Mackler

Editor's note: Understanding the need to open many fronts in the struggle to free Mumia and gain justice in his situation, Mumia's lead counsel Robert Bryan called for those concerned about justice to sign a petition to President Barack Obama to speak out to end all use of capital punishment. Shortly after launching the petition, over 8,000 people had signed it, including Gunter Grass, Germany (Nobel Prize in Literature); Bishop Desmond Tutu, South Africa (Nobel Peace Prize); Danielle Mitterrand, Paris (former First Lady of France); Fatima Bhutto, Pakistan (writer) and noted American philosophers, actors and directors.

In a dangerous decision and a break with its own precedent, the U.S. Supreme Court, on Jan. 19, opened the door wide to Pennsylvania prosecutors' efforts to execute the innocent political prisoner, murder frame-up victim, award-winning journalist and world-renowned "Voice of the Voiceless," Mumia Abu-Jamal.

[Nine] months earlier, on April 6, [2009] the Supreme Court all but shut the door on Mumia's 28-year fight for justice and freedom when it refused to grant a hearing (writ of certiorari) despite its own decision in the 1986 case of *Batson v. Kentucky* that the systematic and racist exclusion of Blacks from juries voids all guilty verdicts and mandates a new trial.

In Mumia's 1982 trial, presided over by the infamous "hanging judge," Albert Sabo, Philadelphia prosecutor Joseph McGill, in explicit violation of *Batson*, used 10 of his 15 peremptory challenges to exclude Blacks from the jury panel. But, as with virtually all Mumia court decisions over the past decades, the "Mumia Exception," a consistent and contorted interpretation of the "law," or abject blindness to it, has been employed to reach a predetermined result. Mumia's frame-up murder conviction was allowed to stand.

In contrast, on Jan. 19, 2010, Pennsylvania prosecutors, twice rejected in their efforts to impose the death penalty on Mumia (in 2001 and 2008), were given yet another opportunity to do so when the Supreme Court remanded the sentencing issue of life imprisonment versus execution to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. The latter was instructed to take into consideration the High Court's new ruling in the Ohio case of *Smith v. Spisak*.

Frank Spisak was a neo-Nazi who wore a Hitler mustache to his trial, denounced Jews and Blacks, and confessed in court to three hate-crime murders in Ohio. Spisak saw his jury-imposed death sentence reversed in the federal courts when his attorneys, like Mumia's, successfully invoked a critical 1988 Supreme Court decision in the famous *Mills v. Maryland* case.

The *Mills* decision required, with regard to sentencing procedures, that both the judge's instructions and the jury forms make clear that any juror who believes that one or more mitigating circumstance exists (sufficient to impose a sentence of life imprisonment as opposed to the death penalty) should have the right to have that issue(s) considered by the jury as a whole. Prior to *Mills*, Maryland jurors were effectively led to believe that they had to be unanimous on any possible mitigating circumstance for it to be considered in the deliberation process.

[The] *Mills* [decision] explicitly rejected the idea of unanimity; it rejected the notion that a single juror could block from consideration the mitigating circumstances hypothetically found by another juror or even by 11 of the 12 jurors.

Before *Mills*, the "unanimity" requirement, in the way it was presented to juries, essentially eliminated the vast majority of mitigating circumstances, and therefore juries had little or no alternative but to impose the death penalty. Under *Mills*, once all mitigating circumstances were set before the jury, it was then their responsibility to determine whether they were sufficient to impose a sentence of life as opposed to death.

In both Spisak's and Mumia's cases the trial court judge violated the *Mills* principle and in essence instructed the juries that unanimity on each mitigating circumstance was required for consideration of the jury as a whole. As a consequence, Federal District Courts in both Ohio and in Pennsylvania (in the case of Mumia), later backed by decisions of the U.S. Courts of Appeals, invoked *Mills* to overrule the jury-imposed death sentence verdicts. They ordered a new sentencing hearing and trial with the proper instructions to the jury and where new evidence of innocence could be presented. The jury remained bound, however, by the previous jury's guilty finding.

Even so, the long-suppressed mountain of evidence proving Mumia's innocence drives Mumia's prosecutors to avoid a new trial at all costs. A new trial of any sort could only expose, with unpredictable consequences, the base corruption of a criminal "justice" system permeated by race and class bias. Executing innocent people does not sit well with the American people. In the courts of the elite, as in life itself, nothing is written in stone. The "law" has more than once been "adjusted" in the interests of the poor and oppressed when the price to pay by insisting on its immutability is too costly in terms of doing greater damage to the system as a whole.

The effect of the 1988 *Mills* decision was to make it harder for prosecutors to obtain death sentences in capital cases; the effect of *Spisak* is to make it easier. Armed with this new Supreme Court weapon and order to reconsider the application of *Mills*, Pennsylvania prosecutors will once again seek Mumia's execution before the Third Circuit.

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Archives

Uniting Against the Common Enemy: October 23, 1971

An excerpt from To Die for the People: The Writings of Huey P. Newton, *republished by City Lights Books, 2009.*

What does the Black Panther Party mean when we say that we are revolutionary intercommunalists? In a few words, we believe that the world's people form a collection of communities, all dominated or controlled, either directly or indirectly, by the United States, by those few who rule the United States. The most common definition for a nation (as opposed to a community) is a group of human beings who have in common their own land or territory, economic system, culture (or way of day-to-day living), language, etc. At one time men from one nation would go out, and through warfare, conquer other nations. The conquerors would bring under their control the resources, the people, perhaps everything that was sovereign or sacred to the other nation. A variety of things would result: A government of the conquering nation might be established on the territory of the conquered nation; the foreign language may be imposed upon the people; the name of the nation might be changed; or most importantly, the economy of the conquered nation would be fully controlled by the conquerors.

Sometimes a nation is very small; sometimes, very large. But in this way, through these wars, the earth's people have over a very long period of time become divided up according to "national" boundaries, in varying ways at different times in history. These wars of conquest have changed world maps, or what one land mass is called. Sometimes one would look at a certain area and it might have a different name or boundary line, depending upon the date of the map (and sometimes, who printed it). We can remember such terms as the Roman Empire, the Ottoman Empire, the Byzantine Empire. We can remember Columbus "discovering" America (or, as he thought, India); and certainly some changes in national sovereignty have been made since then.

Today, things are different. The entire earth's land mass is known to man. The twentieth century's two World Wars have complicated things even more as to the national question. Technology is so advanced that places about which we had only heard in the past are immediately reachable in person. Today a person can travel completely around the world in less than a day's time. If we bring all these past and present facts together with other information the world begins to look a little different. What else do we need to remember: that in the area of technology, the United States is the most highly advanced country; that a territory as large as China, containing within its boundaries one quarter of the entire earth's population, cannot…lay claim to its own former province, Taiwan…; that most former empires, such as France, Germany, Italy, Britain, have lost their former holdings (the French have been run out of Vietnam and Algeria; the British, out of India; the Germans, out of Russia and Poland; the Italians, out of Ethiopia, etc.). The point is that only one country stands as the sovereign stronghold, dominating and threatening the sovereignty of all other people and lands — it is the United States Empire. No people, no land, no culture, no national economy is safe from the long arm of the last remaining empire.

The situation is this: A people can look only backwards, to history, to really speak of its nation. We call these former nations communities. All these territories exist under the threat of being brought into or, in fact, being a part of the United States Empire. Some of the territories are liberated, such as China, the northern halves of Korea and Vietnam…. But the weapons of conquest, the war weapons produced by modern technology, are in the hands of the United States. Not even a liberated territory can lay claim to sovereign control of its land, economy or people with this hanging over its head.

We Black people in the United States have always lived under this threat in our communities inside the United States. United States government control of our communities is not difficult to understand. For most of us it is difficult to imagine our lives without such domination. We have never controlled a land that was ours. We have never controlled our economy. We know of one culture, that as slaves. We know of one language, that of the slavemaster. Our sovereignty was not violated, for we United States Blacks were never a sovereign nation. It is true that we were snatched from African shores. The present fact is that we cannot ask our grandparents to teach us some "native" tongue, or dance or point out our "homeland" on a map. Certainly, we are not citizens of the United States. Our hopes for freedom then lie in the future, a future which may hold a positive elimination of national boundaries and ties; a future of the world, where a human world society may be so structured as to benefit all the earth's people (not peoples).

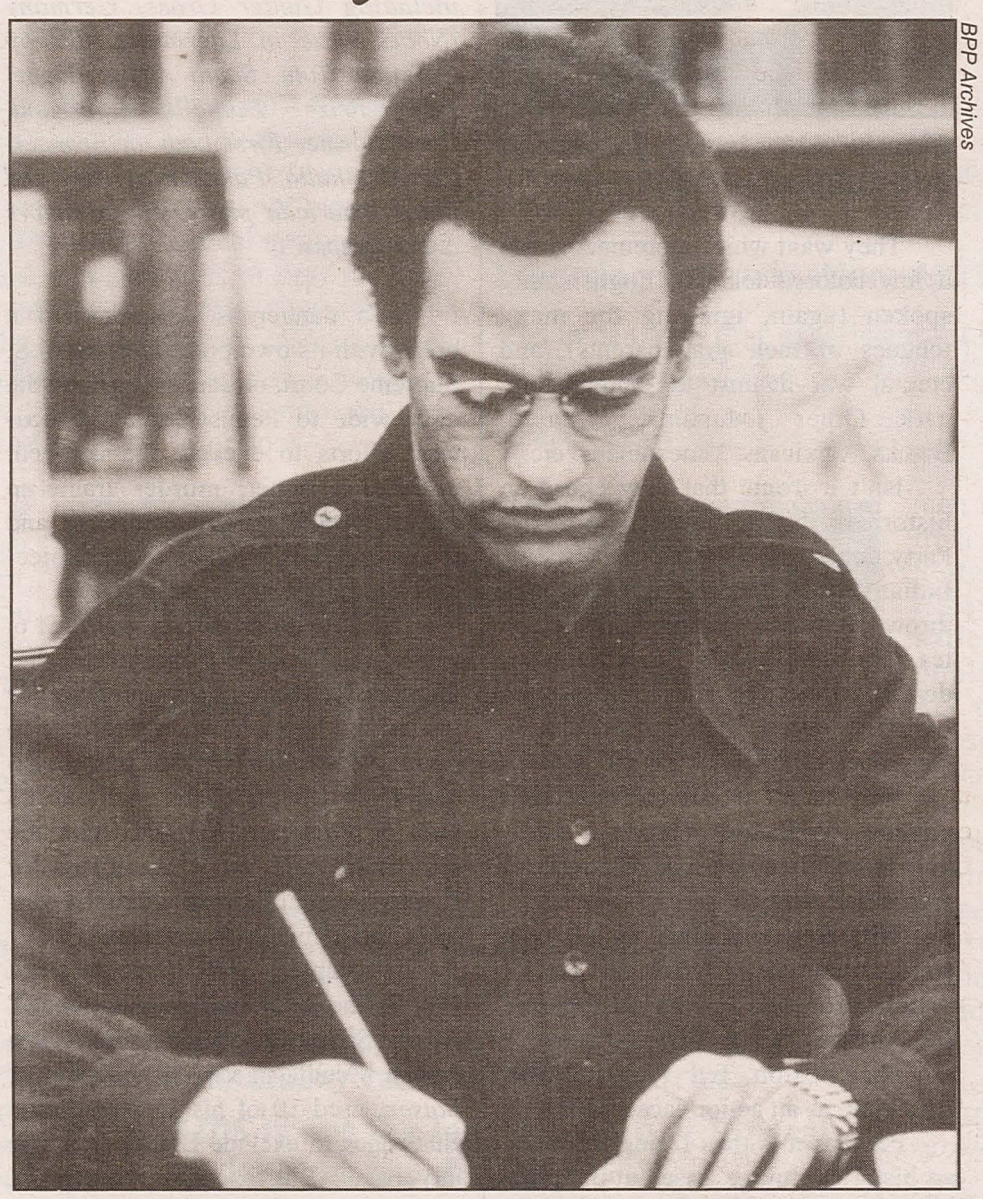
To achieve this end, we struggle here inside the United States to get rid of our oppression. Others struggle inside their territorial boundaries to get rid of oppression. The more territory we liberate in the world, the closer we will come to an end to all oppression. The common factor that binds us all is not only the fact of oppression but the oppressor: the United States Government and its ruling circle. We, the people of the world, have been brought together under strange circumstances. We are united against a common enemy. Today the philosophy of revolutionary intercommunalism dictates that the survival programs implemented by and with the people…are essential to bringing about world unity, from Africa to the Black community inside America, developing and uniting against a common enemy. That enemy has rolled up into one large hand the power of the world. If we get rid of this enemy in a common united struggle it will be easy to transform this unity into a common scheme of things. We are not separate nations of men to continue the pattern of fighting amongst ourselves. We are a large collection of communities who can unite and fight together against our common enemy. The United States' domination over all our territories equals a reactionary (in opposition to the interests of all) set of circumstances among our communities: Reactionary Intercommunalism. We can transform these circumstances to all our benefit: Revolutionary Intercommunalism...

If we believe we are brothers with the people of … Then how do we help? …Or, how can they help our struggle? They cannot fight for us. We cannot fight in their place. We can narrow the territory our common oppressor occupies. We can liberate ourselves, learning from and teaching each other along the way. But the struggle is one; the enemy is the same. Eventually, we and our brothers…in all of Africa, throughout the world, can discuss a world without boundaries or national ties. We will have a human culture, a human language, the earth will be all our territory, serving all our interests; serving the interests of all the people.

Huey Newton. Morrison, Toni, ed. To Die For The People: The Writings of Huey P. Newton. *San Francisco: City Lights, 2009. Originally published: New York: Random House, 1972; also published: New York: Writers and Readers Publishing, Inc., 1995.*

All Power to the People!

Huey's Corner



BPP Archives

Huey P. Newton, Co-founder of the Black Panther Party for Self Defense and leading BPP political theorist.

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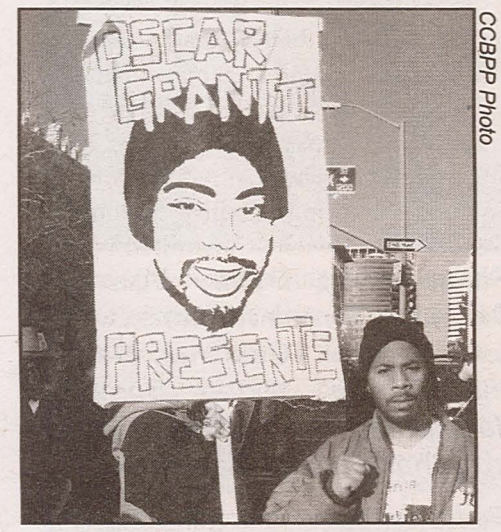
Justice for Oscar Grant III?

Johannes Mehserle Trial Represents Police State — Story Behind the Story



CCBPP Photo

JR Valery, Minister of Information with Prisoners of Conscience Committee, at demonstration at Mehserle's trial.

By Melvin Dickson

The tragic death of Oscar Grant III carries the markings of the unchecked growth of a police state in the United States, a condition that has introduced police armed with lethal weapons patrolling our public transportation systems, schools and emergency rooms out of total fear of the people themselves.

They have placed policemen and police stations on high school campuses and city colleges — students being treated like criminals, forced to pass through metal detectors to get to class. All the while, all levels of government across this country cut back on sports, arts and after-school programs "due to budgets concerns."

The U.S. has more than two million citizens in prison or on parole — per capita, more than any other nation in the world. California alone has more prisoners than many nations — and they continue to build more prisons, feeding the highly profitable prison industries.

During the two years Johannes Mehserle worked as a Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) police officer, eight low-income residents of color were murdered by Oakland policemen (See *Commemorator*, Volume 19, September 2009); each case ended with a ruling of justifiable homicide. What kind of message is conveyed to the rookie policemen? What kind of atmosphere of approval has been established for these police murders, often of unarmed people, many shot in the back? What role has the mainstream media played in rationalizing this violence and murder? The *San Francisco Chronicle* seemed to provide or leak the "I thought I pulled my taser" excuse even before Mehserle came out of hiding after the murder of Oscar Grant III.

This atmosphere of silent support for police brutality dovetails with Arizona's Governor Jan Brewer's criminalization of immigrants, especially

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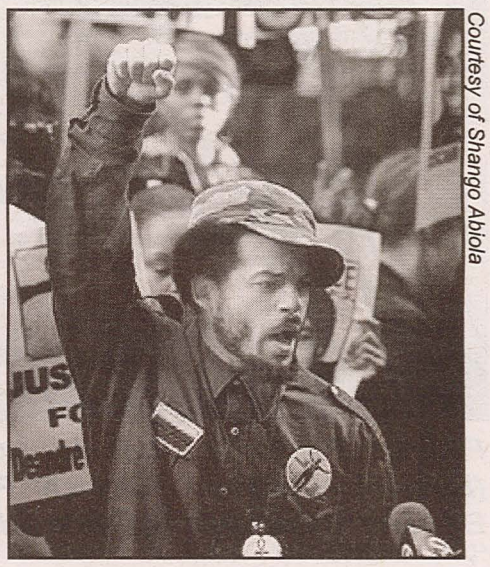
Pre-Trial Hearings of Murder Case Against Officer Mehserle

By Shango Abiola



Courtesy of Shango Abiola

CCBPP correspondent and organizer, Shango Abiola, at a Johannes Mehserle hearing.

When we arrived at the downtown Los Angeles courthouse at about 7:45 a.m. on January 8, the sidewalk was already filled with the people from different organizations and communities from the San Francisco Bay Area and Los Angeles area shouting, "I Am OSCAR GRANT!" This being the first time a police officer has ever been tried for murder in the state of California, it proves to be a prime opportunity for the activists in the SF Bay Area to build networks with their counterparts from southern California.

The murder of 22-year old Oscar Grant III by Johannes Mehserle, a BART police officer, on New Year's Day 2009 at Oakland, California's Fruitvale BART station has provided a tragic catalyst fueling the rebellion and mobilization by (primarily) youth participants. The court's transfer of Mehserle's trial to Los Angeles, has given outraged people from Northern and Southern California an opportunity to build from a common point of unity.

The issue of police terrorism has always been reflective of the exploitative nature of capitalism, and the poorest and most oppressed communities bear the brunt of repression by the state's occupying army (the police).

First of all, the money that could "potentially" benefit poor and oppressed youth by going into employment, education and healthcare (Points 2, 5 and 6 of the BPP Ten-Point Program) is actually going into police militarization and the prison industrial complex (which go hand in hand). The U.S. government gives $43 billion to Homeland Security, while Oakland currently spends over 40% ($22 million) of its general funds on police, while spending a mere 7% on libraries, parks and museums combined. The capitalist media propaganda, both neo-liberal and right wing, criminalize black youth for the purpose of validating this corrupt allocation of the taxpayers' money.

A gag order was not only issued to all participants in the trial by Judge Perry, but he also threatened to issue the same order to the family of Oscar Grant and to John Burris, the attorney representing the family in their $50 million lawsuit against the Bay Area Rapid Transit District. Burris' request that a camera be allowed in the courtroom was denied by Judge Perry, who had already expressed a fear that the citizens of LA would be swayed to support the charges against the police by protesters, saying, "I'll delay this case for five years if necessary," and also suggesting that the family not wear their "R.I.P. Oscar Grant" shirts.

The second hearing in the Mehserle case was held on February 19, 2010. By the early morning, there was a strong presence of protesters from LA outside the courthouse, who had come out not only in support of justice for Oscar Grant but against police terrorism as a whole. This historic case had many supporters from the community who had been victims of police terrorism in Los Angeles. It seems that the community presence, collective organizing and overall will of the people is giving more people the opportunity to speak up.

Speakers at the second hearing protest included Chairman Fred Hampton, Jr. of the POCC (Prisoners of Conscience Committee); Sheena Chou, the best friend of Michael Cho (murdered by La Habra PD); Ajtun Rey, uncle of Dontaze Storian (murdered by the LAPD); students from SF State University; members of the October 22nd Coalition and community members from LA and the Bay Area. The speakers all posed the question, in one way or another, of what are we going to do about police terrorism if and when Mehserle and Tony Pirone (the officer who called Oscar Grant a bitch ass nigger before Mehserle shot him) are convicted?

Point Seven of the Black Panther Ten-Point Program and Platform states, "We want an immediate end to police brutality and the murder of Black people, other people of color and oppressed people inside the United States." It goes on to say that, "We believe it is our right to defend ourselves against such armed attacks." This is the law of nature (self preservation) that the ruling class with, all their resources and capital, can't/won't comprehend. We celebrate the seeds of resistance being planted in the minds of the victimized and oppressed community that these police *(and the police system that trains and deploys them - Ed.)* are not invincible and the people can and will resist until their last breath.

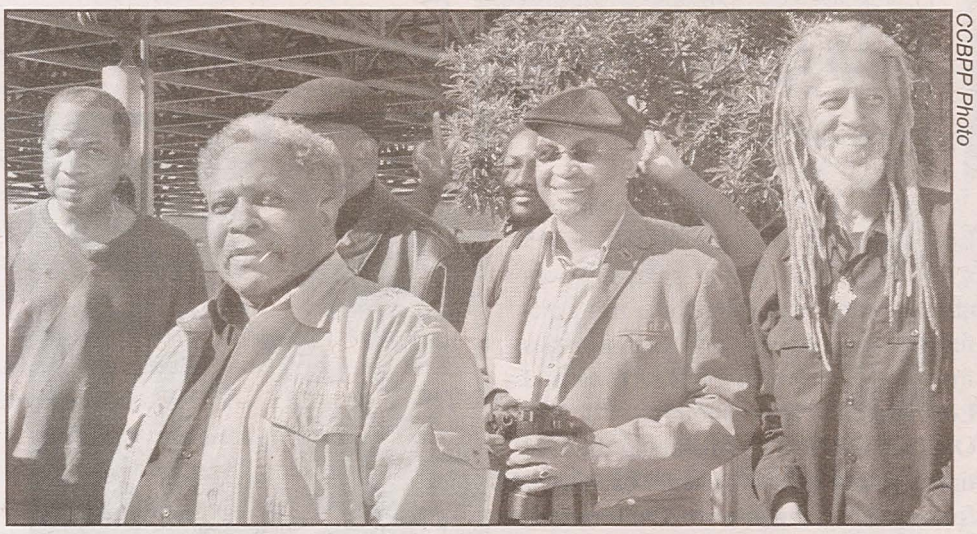
The movement for justice for Oscar Grant represents this thinking. The thinking that our lives are on the line and we must resist as Malcolm X said, "By any means necessary!"

Justice for Oscar Grant!

All Power to the People

43rd ANNIVERSARY OF THE BLACK PANTHER PARTY

2-DAY EVENT HIGHLIGHTS: BPP 10-POINT PROGRAM, KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY BOBBY SEALE



CCBPP Photo

Former Panthers: (left to right) James "Bubba" Young (Boston), Clarence "Stretch" Peterson (Philidelphia), Malik Edwards (New Orleans), Ronald Freeman (Los Angeles).

CCBPP Photo

(left to right) Sultan Ahmad (Philadelphia), Bobby Bowman (Richmond, CA), Mary Williams (Oakland), Teresa Williams (OCS, Oakland), Jeannine Williams, Ericka Huggins (Oakland), Melvin Dickson (Seattle-Oakland), James "Bubba" Young (Boston), Clarence "Stretch" Peterson (Philadelphia), Malik Edwards (New Orleans), Elbert "Big Man" Howard (Chattanooga-Oakland).

Marking the 43rd Anniversary of the Black Panther Party founding, Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP), It's About Time, and the Laney College Black Student Union organized over 350 people to attend the 2-day special event held last October in Oakland, California at Laney College. The event not only commemorated the legacy of the Black Panther Party, but also served to promote the BPP Ten-Point Program, its goals and principles as they relate to the youth today and our future.

Professor Ericka Huggins eloquently delivered the opening address on Friday, October 23. Huggins was a leading member of the Black Panther Party and director of the Oakland Community School. She set an inspirational tone for the event as it also reminded all in attendance of the very purpose of our current collective struggle.

A longtime educator, Huggins emphasized the dire situation for many of our youth, and the need for a "child-centered education" in which children are not simply provided academic instruction, but also receive love, compassion, guidance, responsible care and socialization – a cultural approach to education that mainstream schools shy away from, especially today with defunding of teachers, resources and numerous public school closings. Huggins also spoke about Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald who, because he was a member of the Black Panther Party, has been incarcerated for over 40 years and repeatedly denied parole.

Members of the Black Student Union (BSU) at Laney College, Ray Henderson and Jabari Shaw, shared their experiences growing up in poor black communities, and their familiarity with the legacy of the BPP. Teresa Williams spoke of violence in our communities, as well as the value of self-esteem and the role of education, particularly the importance of

Continued on page 20

40TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRED HAMPTON ASSASSINATION

"YOU CAN KILL A REVOLUTIONARY, BUT YOU CAN'T KILL THE REVOLUTION"

BPP Archives

The late Fred Hampton, Sr.

An evening last November marked another opportunity to revitalize the late Fred Hampton's immortal words: "You can kill a revolutionary, but you can't kill the Revolution."

Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) was honored to host Fred Hampton, Jr., son of the murdered author of that stirring sentence, for a November 13 stop in Oakland, CA on his San Francisco Bay Area speaking tour last fall.

Hampton, Jr. is the Chairman of Prisoner of Conscience Committee (POCC), which devotes itself to the liberation and empowerment of the oppressed. He addressed these aims, as well as the 40th anniversary of the 1969 state assassination of his father and Mark Clark, two leaders of the Illinois Chapter of the Black Panther Party.

He commemorated the fate of his father, whose comrade Deborah Johnson, pregnant with Fred, Jr., lay beside his father when the police bullet entered his brain: "At 4 a.m. on December 4, 1969, the FBI, working with the Chicago police department, assassinated the charismatic and extremely successful Fred Hampton in his bed as he slept… The raid was one in a long line of illegal actions taken by the FBI as part of its COINTELPRO [Counter Intelligence Program] war against the social justice and anti-war movements."

The murders of the Chicago Panthers in 1969 was only one horrific crime among many, precipitated by an increasing hysteria within the FBI, under the maniacal direction of J. Edgar Hoover, and within police departments across the country, in response to previously powerless segments of black and exploited communities organizing to defend themselves.

According to an article written by Chicago journalist John Kifner in 1970, "Chicago District Attorney Edward Hanrahan had devoted himself almost entirely to a 'war on gangs.' When he took office he established a Special Prosecution Unit whose task, it developed, was to go after the youth gangs."

Hanrahan also introduced a plain-clothes Gang Intelligence Unit of particularly brutal officers, and reinvigorated the decades-old "Red Squad," an "anti-subversive" unit organized to infiltrate political groups deemed threatening or unsavory.

Kifner wrote that Hanrahan's "war on gangs" picked up speed as the Panthers, with Hampton as a chief organizer, began to inspire and elevate disaffected and oppressed groups to a common political cause.

Continued on page 19

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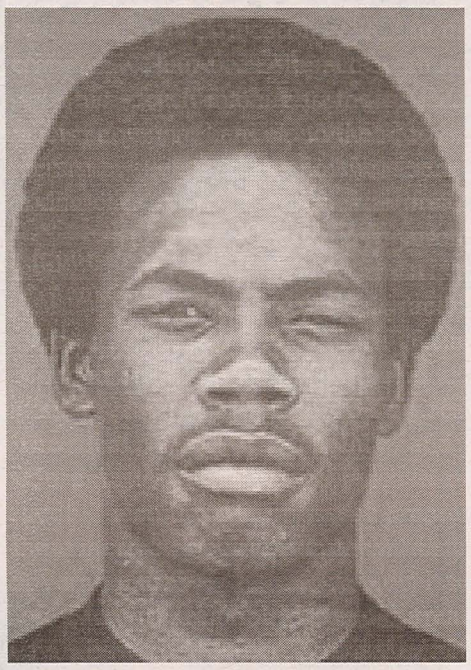
ABOUT CHIP

"Chip" Fitzgerald: The Longest-held Black Panther Party Political Prisoner

By the Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald Defense Committee, FreeChip.org



Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald was born and raised in Compton, California. Upon his release from the Youth Authority in early 1969, he joined the Southern California Chapter of the Black Panther Party.

Bruce Richard, a former member of the Party's Southern California Chapter with Chip, now a union executive, recalls:

"…Upon our release [from Youth Authority], we wasted no time joining the Black Panther Party. Chip worked tirelessly in various capacities in the Westside office of…the Chapter. To be a Panther was a 24/7 commitment, and every single day seemed like weeks due to the volume of activities during that explosive period. We were totally consumed in the Party's Free Breakfast Program, the tutorial program, selling Panther papers, political education classes and other projects. Chip was a favorite of many in the communities we served, and the children, especially, loved him, reflected in their smiling little faces when he appeared…."

"The Greatest Threat"

In September 1969, Chip was wounded and arrested in connection with a police shootout. He was tried for assault on police and other related charges, including the murder of a security guard. He was convicted and sentenced to death. He was 19 years old.

This was immediately following the early 1969 announcement by the infamous FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover that "The Black Panther Party, without question, represents the greatest threat to the internal security of the country." As documented by Huey P. Newton in his widely-acclaimed Ph.D. dissertation, Hoover then pledged to use a special counterintelligence program, COINTELPRO, to "expose, disrupt, misdirect, discredit, or otherwise neutralize the activities of Black nationalists," and, specifically targeted the Black Panther Party. Newton and other scholars document that, of the actions employed by the COINTELPRO program to carry out its agenda, 79% were "specifically directed toward destruction of the Party."

In 1972 the California Supreme Court in *California v. Anderson* declared the death penalty unconstitutional, as a violation of the Eighth Amendment protection against "cruel or unusual punishments" and of the State's constitutional ban against both. Along with nearly 100 other men on death row at the time, Chip found his death sentence commuted to life, with the possibility of parole. Today, however, unlike 98% of those on death row in 1972, who have been released, Chip languishes in prison still, incarcerated for nearly 40 years now. In spite of his long and brutal incarceration, Chip's dedication to the cause of the liberation of black and all oppressed people has not wavered.

The FBI'S War Against Panthers

Although Hoover identified the Party as a "threat to the internal security of the country," he boldly stated that it was the Party's Free Breakfast for Children program, not its weapons of self-defense, that made the Party so "dangerous." Begun in the Party's base in Oakland, California, the Free Breakfast Program grew across the nation with the rise of Party chapters during 1969, in over 40 states. Hoover charged that the Program was spreading revolutionary propaganda to all the hundreds of thousands of black families whose children participated in it, a dangerous development. Newton stated: "Since its inception, the Party [was] subject to a variety of actions by agencies and officers of the federal government intended to destroy it …precisely because of the Party's political ideology and potential for organizing a sizable group of the country's population that has been historically denied equal opportunity in employment, education, housing, and other recognized basic needs."

It is well-documented that, at the end of 1969, under the direction of the FBI, Chicago police assassinated the Party's Illinois chapter chairman Fred Hampton and leading member Mark Clark, and Los Angeles police created its SWAT Team and raided the offices of the Party there at one location in a five-hour gun battle. This was the Party Chapter to which Chip belonged. He is a casualty of this war.

The War Continues

Chip's incarceration cannot be viewed apart from this history of the FBI's war against the Panthers. Chip is the definition of a political prisoner, and is the longest-held Black Panther Party political prisoner. Indeed, at his last parole hearing, in July 2008, he was vigorously challenged by a Board member about his political views, past and present, and summarily denied.

Editor's note: Since February 2009, Chip Fitzgerald has been held in an isolation chamber, "the hole," on an administrative charge. His appeal was denied several times, most recently in July 2009. He was transferred from Centinela to Corcoran State Prison, in Corcoran, California. Chip's situation worsened as the prison administration refused Chip urgently needed medical care in violation of his Constitutional protections under the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against "cruel and unusual punishments."

On April 25, 2010, Chip began refusing food, demanding a transfer out of the hole at Corcoran State Prison where he had been for over a year. Also in April, the Committee to Free Chip Fitzgerald employed a new attorney for the case, Keith Wattley of Oakland, California, who filed a habeas corpus application in the California courts to challenge the Board's denial of his appeal and to petition the local superior court to release Chip from isolation. The Committee mounted a campaign to obtain support letters to the Board from elected officials and others in the community.

On May 4, Romaine "Chip" Fitzgerald ended his hunger strike at Corcoran State Prison in California when he was scheduled to be transferred out of administrative segregation at Corcoran and into Kern Valley State Prison's general population, where conditions (including access to medical care) might be better. His demands were agreed to only after countless calls made into the prison by his supporters. But Chip was placed into lockdown at Kern State and is in urgent need of medical attention.

Please write letters of solidarity to:
Romaine Fitzgerald (B-27527)
Kern Valley State Prison
D-2-118
P.O. Box 5104
Delano, CA 93216

Also write to or call the warden to ask for timely medical attention and to release Chip from lockdown:
Warden Kelly Harrington
P.O. Box 6000
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All Power to the People!

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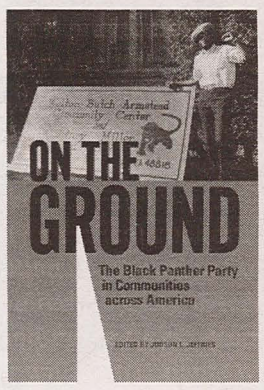

On the Ground
The Black Panther Party in Communities across America
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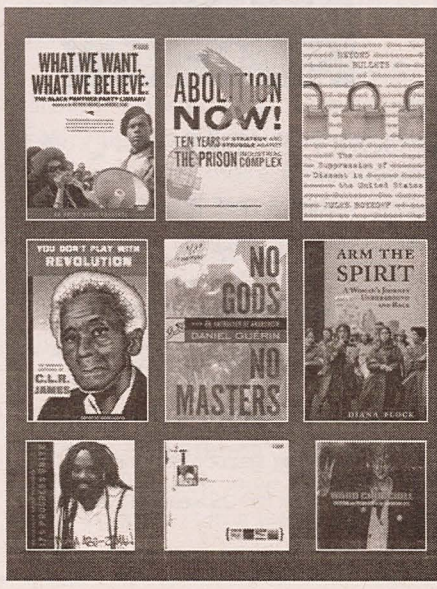

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Novella Carpenter Promotes Old Tradition (Farming) in an Urban Way

Photo Courtesy of Novella Carpenter

Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) hosted Novella Carpenter, author of *City Farm, The Education of an Urban Farmer*, to give a presentation about her West Oakland Farm before an audience of 35 to 40 people gathered on Friday, February 12 at the Niebyl-Proctor Library in North Oakland.

"This event reflects the growing interest in alternative ways to obtain one of the necessities of life, food, which a growing number of workers and poor people do not have enough money to purchase today," said Melvin Dickson, CCBPP chairman. "Many people are interested in practical solutions to day-to-day survival needs for food, health care and education. These are all demands reflected in the Black Panther Party Ten-Point Program."

CCBPP is dedicated to promoting the legacy of the Black Panther Party through practical and political engagement in local communities at a grassroots level.

Under the banner with the BPP Ten-Point Program and the Black Panther symbol, photos were displayed of children at the historic Oakland Community School. The display included photos of OCS students tending to the garden, which had been an integral part of the school's science curriculum.

Dickson explained that gardening was not out of the ordinary at many of the old sites and facilities of the Black Panther Party. The OCS was a model educational program started by the BPP in 1974 in East Oakland. Dickson pointed out that a number of former BPP members present, including Dickson himself, had been assigned by BPP as OCS staff.

Carpenter explained how she had gotten her start with urban gardening. "Bill, my friend who is in the audience, and I had a farm with chickens and animals before we moved here from Seattle, Washington. In the old days, we were among the few people in Seattle who had a garden in their backyard. But when we left, after deciding to move to the Bay Area, gardening had become a common thing to see.

"In Europe, people have urban gardens all over the place. In Africa, where I recently visited, gardening is a way of life…When Bill and I moved to West Oakland's Ghost Town [a predominantly black neighborhood] we didn't seem out of place when we started our farm. I thought it was the perfect place. We fit right in," stated Carpenter.

Raymond Joe, a former BPP member and a CCBPP volunteer said, "My folks are from the South and they grew all their food back then. They raised chickens and hogs — and my mother, even when she moved to Portland, started a garden in our backyard. Many other black families from the south who owned their home had gardens in their backyards."

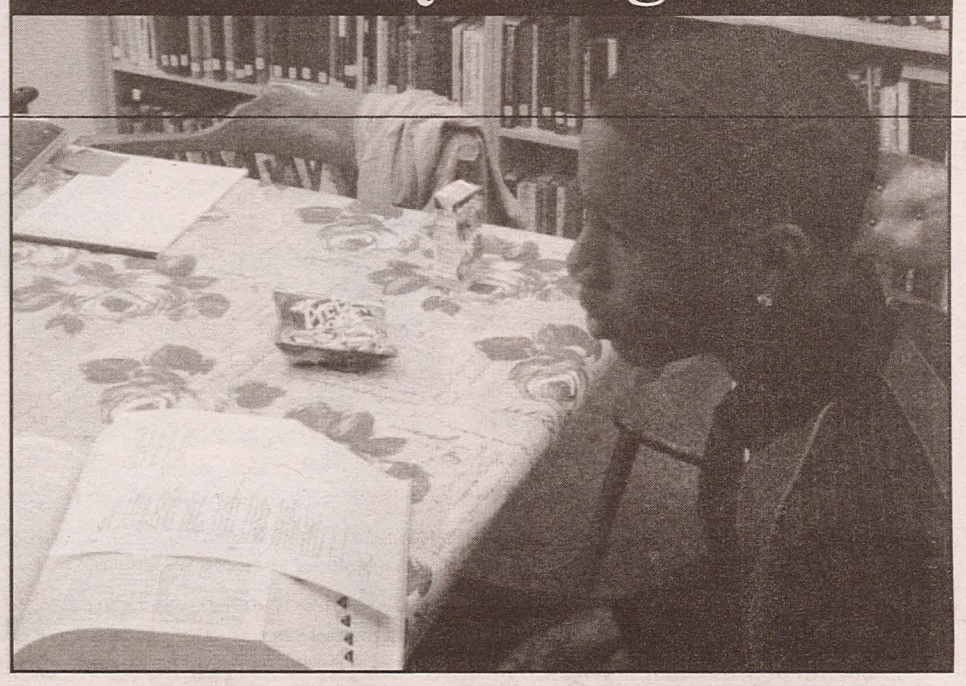
After Carpenter's presentation, she showed a 20-minute slideshow of the West Oakland farm, including a photo of one of Novella's regular visits to CCBPP's office delivering fresh lettuce and tomatoes that she personally grows.

Antoine Bellot, a native of La Tortue Island (Latoti) in the northern region of Haiti who heads up the Bellot Idovia Foundation, also attended and spoke up about how farming relates to the conditions in Haiti. "The people need help with reforestation of the island; we need help with growing food and need help with enriching the soil. Many years ago the Europeans came and exploited the land, made a lot of money, and never repaired the soil. They tell you what to grow, and make it so you only grow what they want you to grow which makes them a lot of money."

CCBPP staff and volunteers wish to thank Novella Carpenter for giving her time and energy to benefit CCBPP's efforts to promote the BPP rich history and to relate it to ways to advance the needs of poor, minority working people today so we can continue the struggle to make the Ten-Point Program a reality.

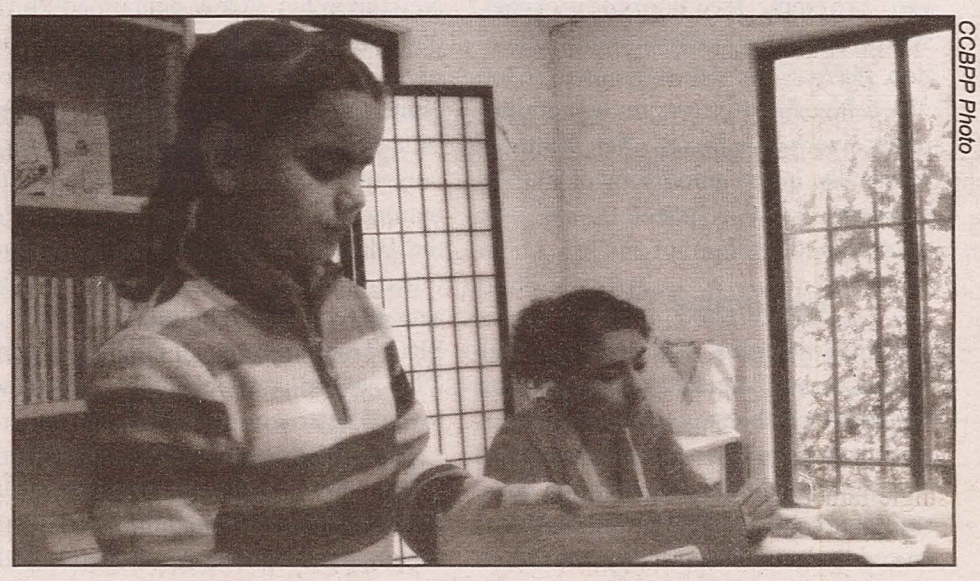
All Power to the People!

Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Program



CCBPP Photo

Mandel E. at The Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Program, where he receives tutoring and mentorship and learns leadership skills.



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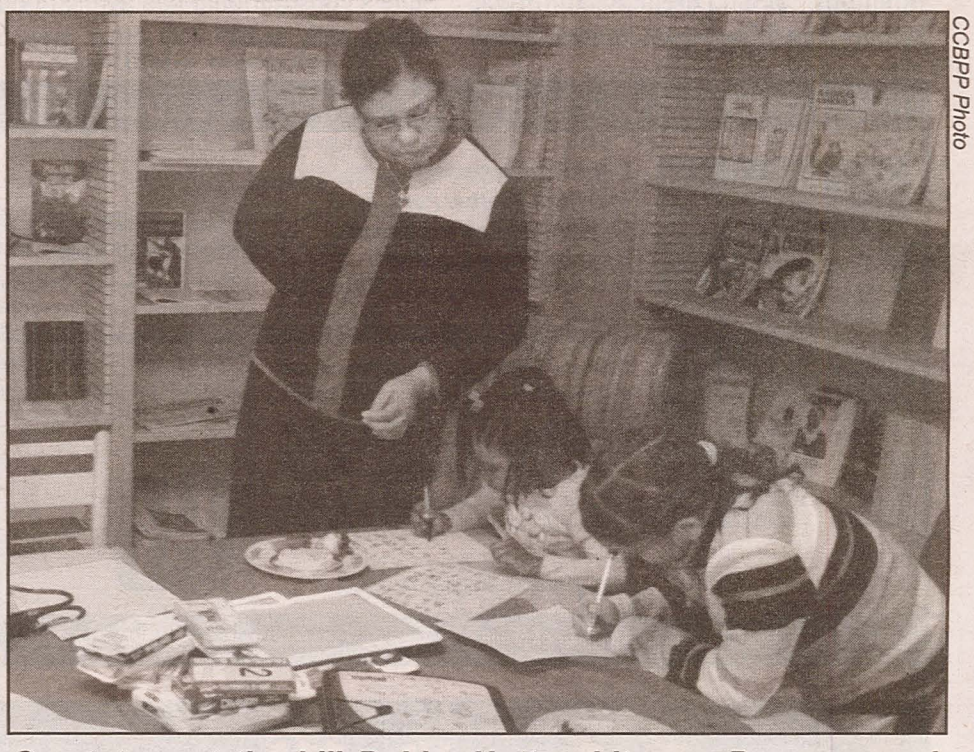
Two sisters, Angel and Tatiana, are students enrolled in the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Program.



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Our tutors at the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Program work closely with students to raise not only their grades, but their level of social and community awareness.

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In Remembrance: Children of Struggle

Editor's note: Chuck Armsbury's history with the Black Panther Party goes back to 1969. While teaching at the University of Oregon, where he was a Social Science professor, he became a dedicated supporter of the Black Panther Party Program. After he and his family traveled to Oakland to participate in the United Front Against Fascism conference sponsored by the Black Panther Party, he became an active supporter of the Eugene, Oregon Branch, where his late daughter, Jillian, attended the party's BPP Liberation School for children and the youth. Chuck is the co-founder of November Coalition, a national nonprofit group founded in 1997 to oppose the mass incarceration of drug law violators, and an editorial board member of Razor Wire, *a quarterly publication based out of Colville, Washington. Chuck is a sponsor of* THE COMMEMORATOR *newspaper and continues to be committed to the struggle for freedom and justice as articulated in the goals and principles of the Black Panther Party.*

By Chuck Armsbury

My daughter Jill's mother and I divorced when she was four years old. Jill lived with me and her brother Joe in Eugene, Oregon in 1966. I was a graduate student and teacher at the University of Oregon, then suddenly a single father.

Later, I fell in love with the young mother who had the neighborhood Kool-Aid House across the street from ours. Sonja was African American, had three children, and in those days neighborhoods were open-doors, with yards and sidewalks filled with kids playing outside if not in school or asleep.

Sonja and I were married early 1968, our blended family living happily on a hill at the end of a cul-de-sac in Eugene. Jill began learning about other people's problems, of racism, and class struggle. I learned about race and class struggle alongside my young children.

The children, all of them, listened to impromptu lectures wherein Sonja would lay things out, real plain sometimes. She could explain what I didn't understand when white people glared at our family. At 68, I can agree with some of my friends who would try to explain that I was an educated idiot.

The transition I made in most of my thinking at that time in my life made just about everything I'd learned in the Sociology department useless — or so it would seem on April 4th, 1968 when we had to tell our children that Martin Luther King was dead, and how he died. We grieved, we ranted, cried. There was no way to shield our children from the raw emotions that ran through our University, our progressive community of colleagues and our friends. A few months later, we'd have to explain to the children that Robert Kennedy had been shot dead.

In the summer of 1969, through contact with black students on campus, Sonja and I heard about a Panther conference in Oakland. Our expanding political knowledge had been limited to cultural nationalists on campus and our direct experience as a mixed-race couple. Class-struggle ideology appealed to both of us. We were curious, committed. Elsewhere in the Bay Area it was the Summer of Love. Our campus in Oregon had been dubbed the "Berkeley of the North," and so the 1957 VW bus was packed yet again, this time, bound for California. We took our youngest, newborn son, Chon, to Oakland.

Before the year was over, Jill was walking to the Methodist Church a few blocks from our house with her African-American brother and sisters to have breakfast and attend Liberation School. The programs and school were organized by the Eugene Chapter of the Black Panther Party. As many as sixty children were fed and schooled according to the Ten-Point Program.

My first daughter, second child, Jill Maureen Armsbury

The background music of her childhood, in a literal sense, was like the times, innovative, changing and full of social messages. Jill loved it — every kind of music from the Jackson Five and the 5th Dimension to every sound that poured out of a window, or played on anyone's radio. Our home was full of students from all over the world, and they brought their favorite records, political discourse and dance. Jill had an eclectic audience for her earliest performances.

...she had known a world of struggle, the kind that... ...can make something better.

By the time Jill took part in the protest on the courthouse steps urging the judge to release me from jail in 1970, she had known a world of struggle, the kind that threatens to beat you down and the kind of struggle that can make something better.

I was in, then out, then back in prison. A friend, Arupo, took Jill into her home and family in 1976. These became stable years for Jill, and Arupo's daughter Debbie and Jill were best friends. She kept ties with her brothers and sisters living in Portland, too.

The 1970's ended, and I'd spent much of the decade in prison, where the struggle continued. When I got out in 1978, I returned to Spokane and became a plumber who'd get a teaching job now and then.

Jill stayed in Portland with her foster family, performed with Portland's Jefferson High School Dancers, was awarded a scholarship from Martha Graham School of Dance in New York City. She moved there in 1980, then cleaned houses and walked dogs to pay for voice lessons, always believing in the notion of struggling against impossible odds. She did indeed become a professional singer and entertainer.

During more than 25 years as a performing artist based in NYC, Jill's stage name was Jillian. She learned Spanish, singing in two languages to her Salsa fans, accompanied by international Latin jazz musicians. I wasn't surprised as much as relieved that she was living her dreams.

Jillian around age 7.

Jillian's *El Teléfono* was a number one song in Cuba in the mid-1990s. Before that she performed at the Apollo Theater and Carnegie Hall with renowned players, including bandleader/husband Johnny Almendra, close friend Tito Puente, and many others. With her big voice, Jillian and Johnny's *Los Jovenes del Barrio* wowed jazz festivals across the country, and grew a loyal following of Salsa dancers at crowded NYC clubs. In 1998 she and Johnny brought the 13-piece *orquesta* to Spokane, igniting a local love for salsa music that's flourished to this day.

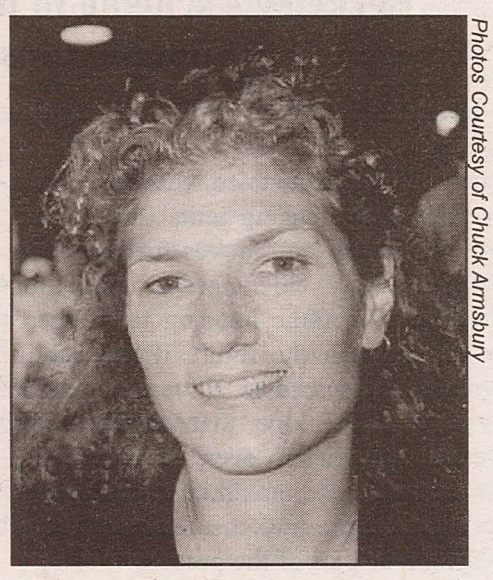
I traveled to New York occasionally to watch her perform. Afterward, we'd always recall her childhood years, sometimes laughing about her big hair, big personality, the occasional strangeness of being white in an African-American family — sometimes crying about the long and hard years of separation.

Children are abandoned in chaotic times, my children falling into the battle lines we drew back then.

As a young woman, she would maneuver her now country-living, middle-aged father through the maze of city streets, if by car or public transportation, mostly with the same wild energy she put into everything. In our travels throughout NYC what always stood out was how she would be on the lookout for a child in trouble. Or was it easy for her to see the look of composed panic in the eyes of a child on a busy subway platform — a child who'd lost their parent? It was as if she had some magic, she could spy the child who was far enough from parents to be considered dangerously separated. Taking the child's hand, Jill would return the boy or girl to parents who usually hadn't realized their child had wandered away.

Jill was at home with all people, of all ages. I remember an audience of black and brown youth she spoke to. She shared her life's story, emphasized hard work, overcoming difficulties and reminding them they should commit to constant study. She ended the presentation by breaking into an opera song in Italian, finishing off with her Cuban hit in Spanish. The kids loved her. She sang her heart out for them.

Memories are cut short; Jill died in January 2009. Exposed to asbestos, she died of Mesothelioma. She struggled hard to live, and did for five years beyond her terminal diagnosis.



The late Jillian Armsbury.

Photos Courtesy of Chuck Armsbury

Jill didn't install asbestos on steam pipes, or handle vermiculite in house insulation. No certain source of contact, just early death for a singer at age 46. I am left to wonder if her asbestos exposure was fireproof stage curtains, or was it the burnt-out factories in the poor neighborhoods of Portland. She wandered through them, sometimes curious, sometimes furious — we'd warn the children to, "stay away from there." Or was it a whoosh of sudden, and terrible exposure when the destroyed World Trade Center came down? I'll always wonder.

I'll always marvel at her drive, even though I do understand it. Short months before the end of her life, Jill drove to Florida to see Kent and Sandra Ford's son, Patrice Lumumba, a childhood friend serving a 20-year federal prison sentence, charged under the Patriot Act. She sang to Lumumba through the phone, plexiglass shielding any personal, real contact, but even so, was glad she went to Florida to see her friend.

She lost a lung, but continued to perform. Days before her passing at home, she was living and working on a new album with her husband, Leon Pendarvis.

Jill's hair, red and wild, became part of her personality, her persona. It was never hard for her to get attention, perhaps she was lucky she loved to entertain. She *had* talent.

Through a childhood of abandonments, neglect and at times having to resort to basic instincts, she would often remind me that her passion for music and wanting to share it kept her focused on survival. And that remained through her final days. Something always hard for me to acknowledge, but I do because this is part of the legacy of struggle, and the struggle's children.

To listen to Jillian online, singing *El Teléfono* and other performances visit YouTube.

All Power to the People

The Commemorator Needs YOU!

Letter To The Editor

Berkeley's scheme to privatize public housing double-crosses the poor

Dear Editor,

The scheme to convert Berkeley's 75 public housing units into a cash cow for the city moves further along day by day. No longer can the poor count on public housing to be there for them in the future if the public housing is sold to a local nonprofit housing developer that would exploit the properties in every way possible, in addition to maximizing their profits by exploiting the Section 8 program, as part of the process.

The Berkeley Housing Authority (BHA) is expecting to receive approval from HUD by early April to sell its occupied public housing units, and is doing whatever it takes to get the tenants on board with killing Berkeley's public housing program.

However, the scheme to privatize Berkeley's public housing units relies heavily on grabbing Section 8 tenant-based vouchers from the poor, and converting them into project-based vouchers (PBVs) for the developers planning to get their hands on Berkeley's public housing. These voucher conversions take precious funding from the poor, and shift the funding to greedy developers who want the money for their building projects.

The Section 8 program (a.k.a. Housing Choice Voucher Program) provides vouchers for the elderly, poor and disabled, to assist in subsidizing their rents, and the vouchers are administered by local housing agencies.

Nonprofit developers believe that converting Section 8 tenant-based vouchers into project-based vouchers for their buildings is very profitable indeed, and lobby hard to convince local housing agencies into converting as many Section 8 tenant-based vouchers as is possible into project-based vouchers that can be used for their profit-based affordable housing sites.

Berkeley's public housing tenants are stunned, shocked and have been speaking out in opposition against the scheme to privatize their long-time housing, and in response the BHA recently moved to stack the deck against those who are in opposition to the plan to kill Berkeley's public housing program.

In a reactionary move against the public housing tenants who are opposed to the plan to kill Berkeley's public housing program, as recently as February 11, 2010, BHA director Tia Ingram urged the BHA board of commissioners to vote "yes" on agenda "Item 9B" of the Action Calendar, for that evening's BHA commissioner's board meeting.

By voting "yes" on agenda Item 9B, the commissioners reactivated the BHA's "Resident Advisory Board" (RAB) which has been dormant or disbanded for some time now, and documents reveal that, through this

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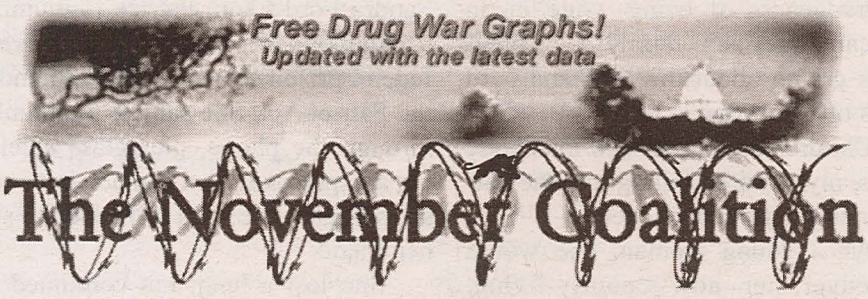

Working to end drug war injustice

Founded in 1997, the November Coalition is a growing body of citizens whose lives have been gravely affected by our government's present drug policy. We are prisoners, parents of those incarcerated, wives, sisters, brothers, children, aunts, uncles and cousins. Some of us are loving friends and concerned citizens, each of us alarmed that drug war casualties are rising in absolutely horrific proportions.

The November Coalition

The November Coalition is a non-profit organization
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Cuba Summit

Continued from page 1

Dickson. "Yet their arrests, trials and convictions have been acknowledged as a travesty of justice and contrary to both U.S. and international rule of law by U.S. constitutional attorneys who are aware of it, the parliaments of France and several other nations, elected officials around the world and the United Nations Working Group on Arbitrary Detention. But because this case is about Cuba, and so many are swayed by the negative and false U.S. government propaganda against Cuba, the general public has none of the facts about this case.

"That is why we saw it was our duty and honor to host this event. CCBPP is committed to the goals of the Black Panther Party (BPP) as outlined in its Ten-Point Program, including Point 8 that states:

WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND POOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U.S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY."

—Point No. Eight:
Ten-Point Program

The Cuban Five are patriotic Cuban citizens who were sent by the government of Cuba in the late 1990's to the United States for the purpose of infiltrating and carrying out surveillance of organizations of émigré Cubans residing in the U.S. that had committed acts of terror against Cuba in the past, including bombing a plane in which the entire Cuban fencing team was killed and bombing nightclubs in Havana as part of an ongoing effort to destabilize and overthrow the sovereign government of Cuba.

"The mission of the five men was to monitor the activities of violent groups of Cuban exiles to report back to Cuba about these terrorist plots. They carried no guns; they never killed anybody; they were never a threat to U.S. national security. They went to Miami to infiltrate these [anti-Cuban terrorist] groups to be the eyes and ears of the Cuban people," explained Jrapko.

As stated in the narrative of one of the films: "They are sons, husbands, brothers, poets, pilots, college graduates and artists. Three of them were born in Cuba and two were born in the United States. Three of them fought in Angola …against the South African apartheid government."

The five Cubans prosecuted and imprisoned by U.S. courts are Gerardo Hernandez Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, René González Schwerert, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez and Fernando Gonzáles Llort. They were arrested in September 1998, taken from their homes in the Miami area in the middle of the night by FBI agents. They have been held in isolation units in U.S. maximum-security prisons ever since. The unjust imprisonment of these five Cuban patriots by the U.S. government has inspired international demands for their release and for immediate approval of visas to allow their spouses and loved ones to visit them in prison.

The U.S. government has denied two of the men the right to be visited by their wives. René González has not seen his wife, Olga, for almost 10 years. Gerardo Hernandez and his wife Adriana Perez have not seen each other for almost 12 years. Gerardo has been sentenced to two life sentences, and Adriana sentenced to never seeing her husband again.

The wives, mothers and whole families of these men are active on the international campaign for their freedom, and letters of correspondence from the men to their families and friends are being shared through the Committee, some of which were featured being read by Danny Glover in the films shown at the May 28 event.

Jrapko explained that the reason the Cuban Five left behind their loved ones and came to the United States was because of the lack of response from U.S. administrations to stop violent acts against Cuba. For almost 50 years, Cuba has been victim to all types of aggressions, military invasion, attempted assassination of Cuban leaders and violent actions that ended the lives of close to 3,500 Cubans. The presence of the Cuban Five was completely justified to prevent more deaths and suffering.

"These courageous brothers infiltrated known violent rightwing groups and provided critical information to foil some of the plans for illegal attacks against their country during the Clinton administration," Dickson said. "In 1998, under the political influence of Miami's rightwing CIA-controlled anti-Castro groups that have carried out numerous attacks against Cuba since the socialist revolution of 1959, the U.S. government and bourgeoisie media have unjustly framed these brothers. Although preventing acts of terrorism, and even reporting their evidence of planned terrorist acts to the U.S. government, the U.S. federal government instead turned the attack against these brothers and Cuba."

The Cuban Five: Why We Must Act

Just months before the arrests of the Cuban Five, the Cuban government had voluntarily supplied an in-depth report of all that they had learned so far of the plans of these anti-Castro terrorists, documenting for the U.S. government the imminent dangers posed by the actions and plans of those they were watching. Instead of taking action to insure these acts were not carried out, the U.S. government sent in FBI agents to arrest the Cubans who had successfully exposed the illegal actions of these U.S.-based terrorists.

Upon arrest they were placed in isolation with no bail for 17 months until their trials and charged with various counts of spying and of conspiracy to commit murder. The U.S. court refused all motions for a change in location of the trial, despite the overwhelming and self-evident fact that a trial in Miami, with a jury from Miami,

where the media is saturated with anti-Castro propaganda, could never be a fair trial. The jury voted them guilty and the judge gave them sentences of 15 years, 17 years and life.

Today they remain in isolation in various maximum-security prisons throughout the U.S. The defense team has brought numerous appeals, all the way to the Supreme Court. The high court refused to hear the case, despite the fact that the petition to the Supreme Court was filed along with a record number of "friends of the court" statements from legal, civic, academic and international organizations and individuals.

After seeing the films and hearing the presentation from Alicia Jrapko, Coordinator of the International Committee to Free the Cuban Five, members of the audience had a great deal to say. "This information needs to get out to the local community. We have to reach out, door-to-door, and let the people know about this and get them to contact their church, their club, and the schools and college campuses," stated one elderly black woman who has experienced the political repression and oppression firsthand. "You have a lot of big name people but we need to get the youth involved to reach out to the schools, the local businesses, letter writing to politicians and churches," stated a brother who lives nearby the CCBPP office.

"I want to thank the Cuban Five for their courageous stand on behalf of the Cuban People's revolution and working class people everywhere, and thank you on behalf of all political prisoners inside the United States," Dickson said to the crowd. "The Cuban revolution has always been an inspiration, and has played a leading role in shaping the world today, and the future. We have not forgotten the solidarity Cuba demonstrated with our comrade Dr. Huey P. Newton, how he and his family were treated – as family – by Cuba's progressive and revolutionary people. We are honored to host you. This is an intercommunal solidarity gathering on behalf of Cuba, and the Cuban Five for the injustice they and their families face for their work on behalf of their country and the Cuban people."

Dickson also stated that political prisoners are a growing problem in the United States. Mumia Abu-Jamal, a fellow former Black Panther Party member and an award-winning journalist, was denied justice and remains on death row. Eddie Conway and "Chip" Romaine Fitzgerald are also still in prison, fighting for justice, to name a few.

CCBPP Photo

Alicia Jrapko gives audience an update on the Cuban Five case as part the Oakland-Santiago de Cuba Sister Cities Solidarity Program.

"The Black Panthers faced the same media slander and illegal 'legal system' for its stand on the Ten-Point Program from the beginning," he said. "We are proud to host the Cuban 5 Celebration and show our solidarity with their continued stand for justice and peace."

U.S. Stance Protects Terrorist Luis Posada Carriles

The presentations included material about Cuba's and Venezuela's efforts to have the U.S. extradite Luis Posada Carriles to stand trial as one of the known terrorists responsible for masterminding several bombings that killed hundreds of people in Cuba. According to *The New York Times*, Posada Carriles had a long history as a CIA operative in the 1960s. In 1976, Posada Carriles and an accomplice planted C-4 plastic explosives on a Cubana Airlines Flight headed to Havana, killing all 73 passengers on board.

Mr. Posada Carriles is now living freely in the U.S. after a period of being held in an immigration facility in New Mexico. The U.S. government has refused to extradite him to Venezuela or Cuba, an action viewed by these nations as hypocritical on the part of the United States.

The Cuban government has no recourse against exiled terrorists lodged in the U.S. in large part because Cuba has no diplomatic ties with the U.S. but also because the U.S. official stance to Cuba is in general hostile, most vividly defined by its 40-year embargo against Cuba. Laws such as the Torricelli Act of 1992 make it illegal for foreign subsidiaries of U.S. companies to trade with Cuba, and travel restrictions set up by the U.S. Treasury Department prohibit U.S. citizens from traveling to Cuba without licensed permission from the U.S. government.

Sister Cities Summit, Oakland

The Cuban Five solidarity event was part of a 3-day summit that opened Thursday May 27 with a reception at the Oakland City Hall. African American and Haitian drummers opened the program at the Rotunda building inside Oakland City Hall, with the Cuban flag flying on the first floor at the base of the stairway entrance next to the American flag. About 40 people gathered, mingled about the various activities that included displays of Santiago de Cuba literature and photos of Cuba. Speakers addressed the audience from an improvised podium.

Tina Flores, the secretary of the association, commented briefly on the Oakland-Santiago de Cuba Sister Cities efforts and then introduced VIP's in attendance, including Delvis Fernandez, President of the Cuban American Alliance Education Fund (CAAEF) and Vice President of the Sister Cities Association; Miguel Angel, Vice President of the Cuba Sister Cities Association and Member of New Mexico Sister Cities Association; and a representative from the City of Oakland.

The cultural and education programs over the next two days featured presentations and panel discussions on a range of topics including Cuba's contributions to developing nations around the world, U.S. foreign policy towards Cuba, the U.S. embargo against Cuba, Cuba's health care system and free medical college program, and Cuba's ongoing aid to struggling Haiti. It ended on May 29 at the Humanist Hall where participants brought medical supplies for the Haitian relief effort.

With this Summit, the Oakland-Santiago de Cuba Sister Cities Association celebrated ten years of maintaining a formal relationship of solidarity between the City of Oakland, California and the City of Santiago de Cuba, Cuba, through the U.S.-Cuba Sister Cities Association, a "citizen diplomacy" network building "people-to-people" programs and reciprocal bilateral exchanges between U.S. citizens and organizations with their counterparts in Cuba.

Dickson had joined as a member of the Oakland-Santiago de Cuba Sister Cities Association in September 2009 because of his lifelong fight against the oppression of the poor and minorities and for international solidarity with working people of all nations.

"I want to thank Tina Flores for her work in putting this Summit together. I hope this event can provide

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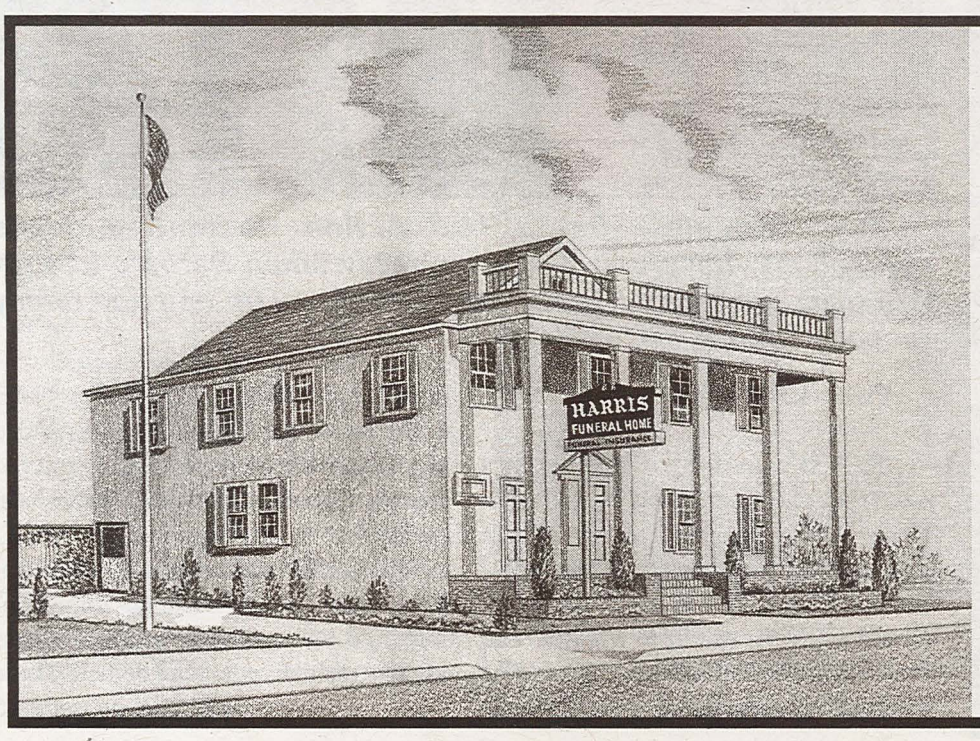

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CCBPP Photo

Alicia Jrapko presents a copy of Cuban Five DVD to Miguel Angel, Vice-President of the U.S.-Cuba Sister Cities Association.

Cuba Summit

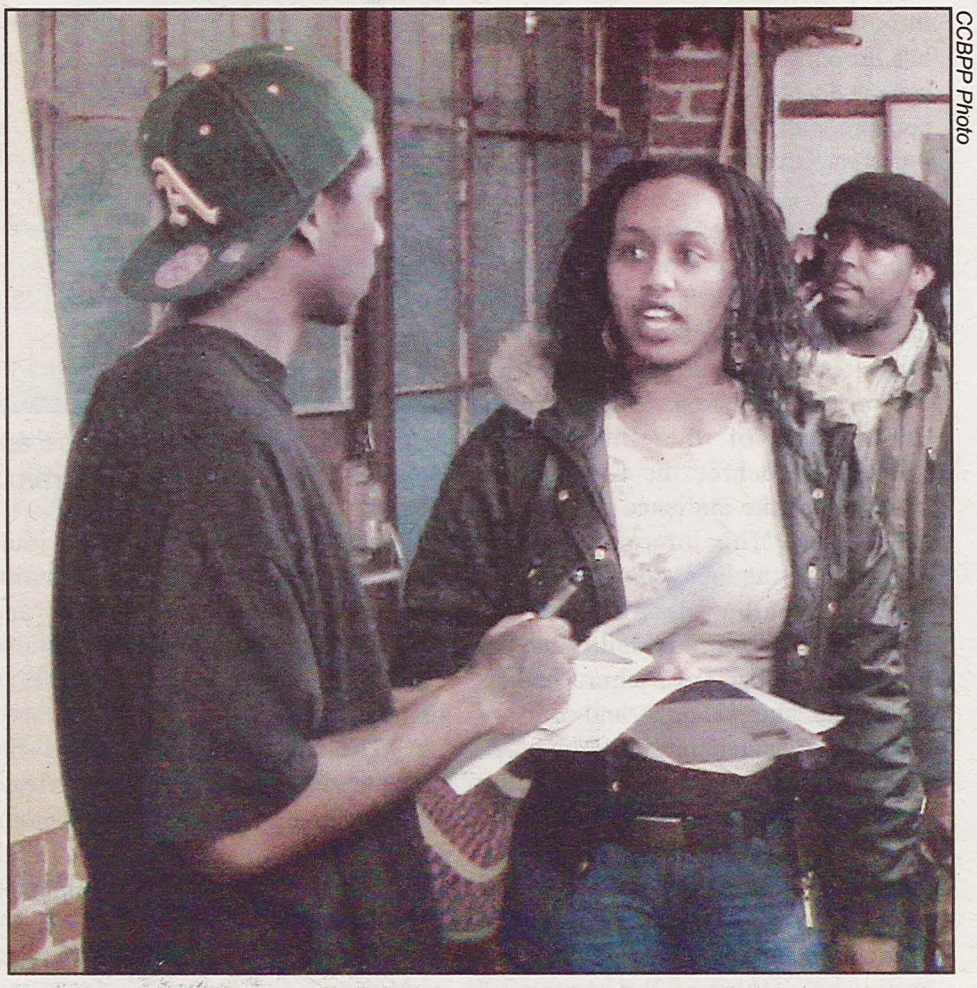
Continued from page 11

some inspiration and support to end the economic exploitation, repression and oppression against our people here and around the world.

"Currently, we of CCBPP are promoting our membership drive. Our membership is a part of our strategic thrust of meeting the day-to-day needs of the masses here in the East Bay. Our membership runs the Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, a volunteer-run literacy program for both youths and adults, based on the motto of 'Each One, Teach One.' The program also promotes the Black Panther legacy."

Other Sister Cities representatives participated in the Summit, from Richmond (sister city with Regla, Cuba) and Berkeley (sister city with Palma Soriano, Cuba), as well as representatives from various Cuba Solidarity groups.

"Our Sister Cities Association Project here in Oakland has been meeting every month for ten years to promote our bond with the people of Santiago de Cuba," stated Tina Flores Secretary and Director of the Committee. "We have endorsed, encouraged and celebrated all activities of Cuban people that improve and enlarge their daily lives and ours: universal health care, universal education, and the universal adoption of horticulture. We are endeavoring to follow Cuba's leadership in living sustainably – both economically and environmentally – and showing the world that health care is the right of all, through their provision of free health care and medical training throughout the world."



CCBPP Photo

Eseibio Halliday (left), CCBPP Volunteer Coordinator, signs up a volunteer for neighborhood canvassing.

"This was a memorable event," added Flores, speaking of the Summit. "We were especially pleased with the audience participation in the round-table type of dialog we had about U.S. policy toward Cuba and the Cuban Five and how to go about getting out the word about what's going on.

"It was also important to get the word out about the Cuban solidarity with Haiti which still faces tremendous disaster. We are all very proud of Cuba, in their example of the international solidarity shown to Haiti — even before the earthquake — and especially from the ELAM (Latin America School of Medicine) which is the Cuban university where over 24,000 students throughout the world go and study medicine free of charge."

Power to the People

Statement From Haiti Action Committee

CCBPP Photo

A protest and vigil held in downtown Oakland, CA in January memorializing the victims of the earthquake in Haiti and condemning the U.S. military response to that disaster.

CCBPP Photo

CCBPP Photo

Pierre LaBossiere (left), Haiti Action Committee, leads candlelight vigil along with Congresswoman Barbara Lee (D-CA) (second from left) with Raymond Riley (in hat) and family recently returned from Haiti.

By Pierre LaBossiere

Haiti is constantly being impoverished and underdeveloped by the inhumane economic policies of the international community. In the USA, Senator Jesse Helms is one of the politicians leading the charge to withhold and deny monetary funds to Haiti. The International Development Bank (IDB) continues to withhold funds from Haiti. In the meantime, Haiti is illegally forced to pay interest on these loans in spite of the fact the monies have never been released to the country.

Loans for Haitian hospitals, education, clean water, housing, infrastructure, and national disaster preparedness are routinely diverted and denied. These

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NAL UPDATE

History of The Cuban 5

The Cuban Five are: Gerardo Hernández Nordelo, Ramón Labañino Salazar, René González Schwerert, Antonio Guerrero Rodríguez and Fernando González Llort. They are sons, husbands, brothers, poets, pilots, college graduates and artists. Three of the Cuban Five were born in Cuba and two were born in the United States. Also three of them fought in Angola, during the war against apartheid. They are currently serving long prison sentences in the United States.

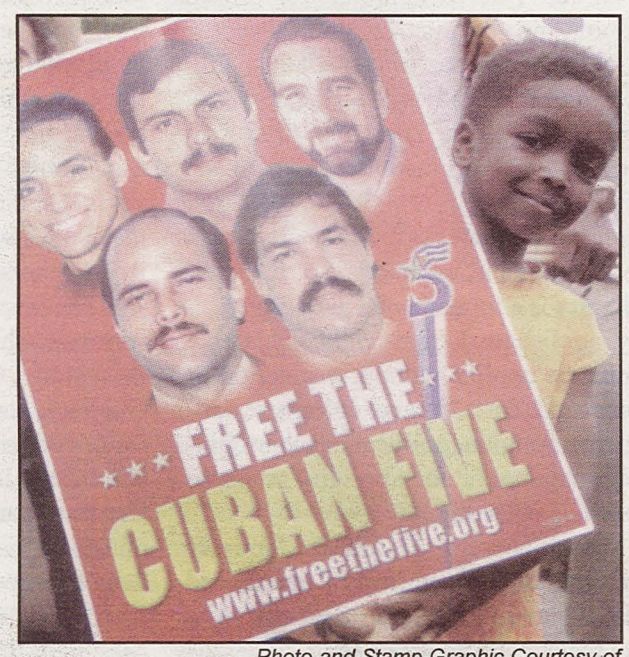

Photo and Stamp Graphic Courtesy of The International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5

Since 1959, Cuba has been subjected to threats, sanctions, invasions, sabotage, and violent attacks on its soil, resulting in 3,478 deaths and another 2,099 wounded. It has thus developed vigilance against foreign attacks.

In 1976, 73 people died when a bomb exploded aboard a commercial Cuban airliner, destroying the plane in mid-air. The masterminds behind the attack were two men of Cuban-origin, Orlando Bosch and Luis Posada Carriles, former CIA operatives who currently live in Miami.

During the early 1990's, following the fall of the Soviet Union, Cuba was trying to establish its tourism industry.

Soon after, the right-wing exile groups in Miami started a violent campaign targeting tourist hotels and resorts, buses, airports and other facilities to discourage foreigners from visiting the

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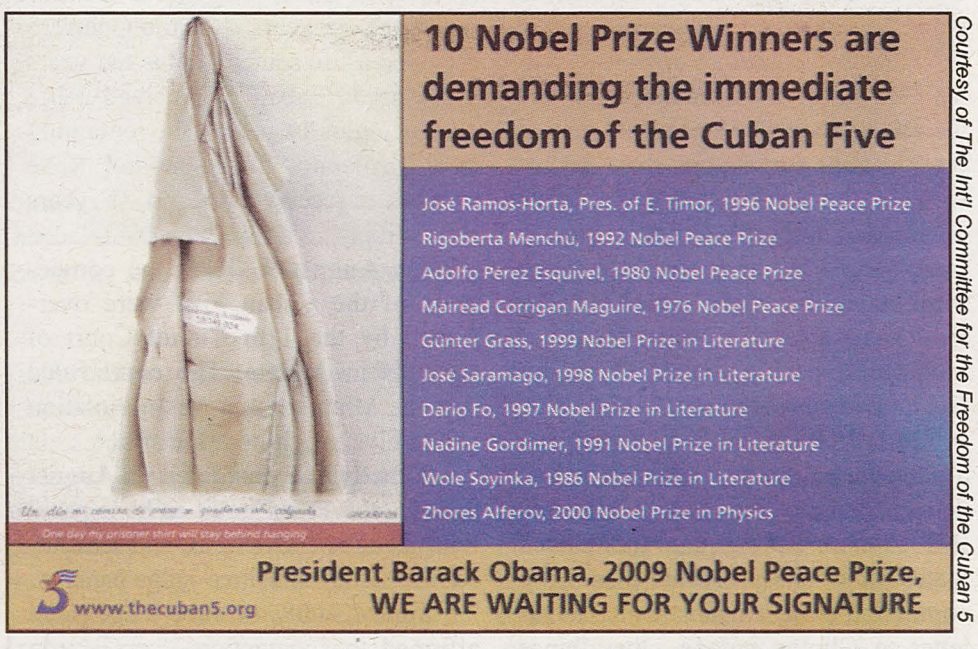
A Letter to Secretary of State Hillary Clinton


10 Nobel Prize Winners are demanding the immediate freedom of the Cuban Five
José Ramos-Horta, Pres. of E. Timor, 1996 Nobel Peace Prize
Rigoberta Menchú, 1992 Nobel Peace Prize
Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, 1980 Nobel Peace Prize
Máiread Corrigan Maguire, 1976 Nobel Peace Prize
Günter Grass, 1999 Nobel Prize in Literature
José Saramago, 1998 Nobel Prize in Literature
Dario Fo, 1997 Nobel Prize in Literature
Nadine Gordimer, 1991 Nobel Prize in Literature
Wole Soyinka, 1986 Nobel Prize in Literature
Zhores Alferov, 2000 Nobel Prize in Physics
One day my prisoner shirt will stay behind hanging
www.thecuban5.org
President Barack Obama, 2009 Nobel Peace Prize,
WE ARE WAITING FOR YOUR SIGNATURE

Courtesy of The Int'l Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5

March 8, 2009

U.S. Department of State
Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton

c/c United Nation Human Rights Commission
Rapporteur Against Torture
U.N. Group on Arbitrary Detentions
Amnesty International
Ombdusman

Dear Mrs. Clinton:

We, the undersigned of this letter, respectfully request the U.S. Department of State, the Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security to immediately grant Humanitarian Visas to the Cuban citizens Olga Salanueva and Adriana Pérez, wives of federal prisoners René González and Gerardo Hernández respectively, whom, without any legal reasons, have been prevented from visiting their imprisoned husbands for 9 and 10 years.

We are aware that those two women have applied for visas on 9 different occasions. On each occasion, the State Department denied their request based on different arguments each time, without showing any legal basis that justified the arbitrariness of

Continued on page 14

Bellot Idovia Foundation Helping Build Sustainable Communities in Haiti

By Denise Pittman and Antoine Bellot

Like all of Haiti, the island of La Tortue is thoroughly deforested, ninety-eight percent to be exact. The continued depletion of trees has led to severe soil erosion, which leaves the land and people unnecessarily vulnerable during hurricane season. In addition, these conditions are obstacles to the sustainable agriculture that in the past has nourished the Haitian people. Other infrastructure projects such as potable water systems, schools, access to roads and health clinics are lacking or in need of repair.

Clean, safe drinking water is a huge problem on the island, even though there are a number of wells and natural springs. The wells are usually not covered properly; they are exposed and subjected to contamination from debris and the use of dirty buckets with soiled rubber. This causes water born illness like cholera, diarrhea. Many die from these preventable diseases, mostly children under five.

Photo Courtesy of Bellot Idovia Foundation

Young Haitians draw water from a well. Basic necessities, such as clean water and food, are scarce since the recent earthquake which rocked this impoverished nation.

Photo Courtesy of Bellot Idovia Foundation

Erosion has left the roots of this tree exposed, leaving it weakened.

During their latest trip to Haiti three months ago, Bellot Idovia Foundation (BIF) and Bay Area retired solar system installer Bruce Gardiner installed a KW DC solar electric system on the roof of the rural community clinic. Bruce was assisted by several students who had participated in a 4-day intensive introduction and hands-on training in solar energy.

The system consists of two 120 WP solar panels, two U-225 batteries and an

Continued on page 15

Cuban 5

Continued from page 13

island nation. In 1997, as part of that campaign, a bomb exploded in the lobby of Havana's Hotel Copacabana, killing Fabio DeCelmo, an Italian tourist. The Cuban authorities arrested Raúl Ernesto Cruz Leon, a native of El Salvador who confessed to having been paid thousands of dollars by anti-Castro exile groups based in Miami to plant the bomb.

Due to the lack of response from the FBI to stop such attacks, Cuba sent the Cuban Five to Miami to monitor the organizations perpetrating these acts of violence. The idea was to gather information about similar acts that were in the planning stages in order to derail them before they were carried out. The Five were able to establish evidence implicating specific Miami exile groups and individuals in the attacks.

In 1998 President Fidel Castro sent a personal emissary to Washington to deliver a hand-written note to President Bill Clinton, asking that the United States indict and prosecute those who committed crimes against Cuba. In his letter to Clinton among other things Castro said, "If you really want to do so, you can put a stop to this new form of terrorism. It is impossible to stop this terrorism without United States involvement. Unless it is stopped now, in the future any country could be victimized by this new terrorism." President Castro's personal emissary was none other than Gabriel García Márquez, the winner of the Nobel Prize for Literature. García Márquez finally met with White House Chief of Staff Mac McLarty on May 6, 1998 and gave him the letter.

In the wake of the García Márquez visit, the United States sent an FBI team to Havana one month later to discuss collaboration with Cuba on stopping acts of aggression emanating from Miami. At the meeting Cuba handed over 64 files containing the results of its investigation into 31 different terrorist acts and plans against the island in the decade of the 1990's. The Cuban government enclosed details of operations against Cuba, including photographs of the explosives used.

Cuba then waited for the FBI to start arresting the architects of these operations, but instead, on September 12, 1998, it arrested the Cuban Five; the very men who had come to Miami to monitor the activities of the violent Miami exile groups. After their arrest, the Five spent 17 months in solitary confinement cells. The trial took place in Miami and lasted seven months.

They were charged with 26 counts of violating the federal laws of the United States. 24 of those charges were relatively minor and technical offenses, such as the use of false names and failure to register as foreign agents. On June 8, 2001, the Cuban Five were all sentenced to maximum prison terms. Gerardo Hernandez received a double life sentence plus 15 years. Antonio Guerrero received a life sentence plus ten years and Ramón Labañino received a life sentence plus 18 years. The remaining two, Fernando Gonzalez and René González, received 19 and 15 years respectively.

On August 9, 2005, the convictions of the Cuban Five were overturned by the 11th Circuit Court of Appeals in Atlanta. The court ruled that the Miami venue was a violation of the Five's right to a fair trial.

Exactly one year later, on August 9, 2006, the 11th Circuit en banc panel reinstated the convictions, and remanded nine issues to a three-judge panel.

June 4, 2008, the three-judge panel affirmed the convictions for Gerardo Hernandez and René González but sent the cases of Ramón Labañino, Antonio Guerrero and Fernando Gonzalez to Miami to be re-sentenced by the same Judge that convicted them in the first place.

January 30, 2009, the defense team petitioned the U.S. Supreme Court to hear the appeal for the Cuban Five.

June 15, 2009, with no explanation, the U.S. Supreme Court refused to review the case of the Cuban Five.

October 13, 2009, the United States District Court in Southern Florida imposed a new sentence of 21 years and ten months in prison on Antonio Guerrero, who was serving a life sentence plus ten years.

December 8, 2009, the United States District Court in Southern Florida imposed a new sentence of 17 years and nine months on Fernando Gonzalez, who was serving a 19 year sentence and of 30 years on Ramón Labañino, who was serving a life sentence plus 18 years.

This report is courtesy of the International Committee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5, a network of concerned citizens working tirelessly to raise awareness about the case of the Cuban Five. For information visit: www.thecuban5.org.

All Power to the People!

Letter to Sec'y Hillary Clinton

Continued from page 13

such a measure. Amnesty International has denounced this situation on several occasions since the year 2003, reminding you that:

Article 10 (1) of The United Nations International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights that the United States has ratified states: "All persons deprived of their liberty shall be treated with humanity and with respect for the inherent dignity of the human person." "(4) Treating all persons deprived of their liberty with humanity and with respect for their dignity is a fundamental and universally applicable human right. This rule must be applied without distinction of any kind, such as race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status."

On January 17, 2007 Amnesty International once again denounced the violations of these prisoners' right to receive visits from their wives as "an unnecessary punishment"

We also want to remind you that on May 27, 2005 the United Nations Group on Arbitrary Detention made public an opinion declaring the detention of these persons as "illegal and arbitrary" and asked the US government to put an end to that situation, arguing the legal violations that they suffered and the lack of legal guarantees to a fair and impartial trial. Among other things they declared: "this is contrary to the Art. 14 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights"

In addition, on August 9th of the same year three judges of the Atlanta Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals revoked their sentences and asked for a new trial.

The Cuban Five were arrested on September 12, 1998. Since then the lack of regular family visits for these men has been an additional punishment. We know that the U.S. penitentiary system allows family visits several times per month, according to a particular prison's rules. In the ten years that they have been incarcerated, these rules were never granted to family members of the Cuban Five.

The visas given to the mothers, wives and children of Ramón Labañino, Fernando González and Antonio Guerrero, have been arbitrarily delayed for periods of up to a year and a half in all cases. In the cases of Gerardo Hernández and René González the right of family visits has been violated. To deny these prisoners the right to be visited by their wives has become, with the passing of time, another form of torture and cruelty.

We ask you to put an end to this situation and to grant immediate HUMANITARIAN VISAS to OLGA SALANUEVA and ADRIANA PÉREZ and MULTIPLE VISAS TO ALL FAMILY MEMBERS.

Courtesy of the International Commitee for the Freedom of the Cuban 5.

All Power to the People!

Mumia Action Alert

Continued from page 3

Undoubtedly, the U.S. Supreme Court found some delight in rendering their Spisak decision. They changed the law in order to allow Ohio to execute a likely deranged Nazi and instructed Pennsylvania prosecutors to use this law to try to execute a revolutionary — that is, Mumia Abu-Jamal.

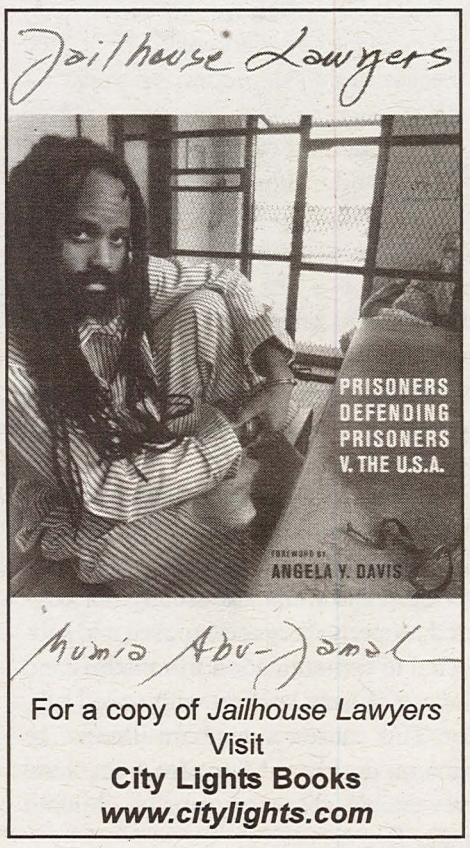
In every sense Mumia's life is on the line as never before. Pennsylvania Governor Ed Rendell is pledged to sign what could be the third and final warrant for Mumia's execution. Opinions vary as to the timeline for a final decision of the Third Circuit. Indeed, the Third Circuit could, in turn, remand the Mills issue back to Judge Yohn's Federal District Court, and any decision made therein might well be appealed by either side back to the Court of Appeals and then to the U.S. Supreme Court. The process could take months or years, but the deliberations will be based on new turf that leads closer to the death penalty for Mumia than ever before.

Mumia's supporters around the world, and Mumia himself, have long noted that the battle for his life and freedom largely resides in our collective capacity to build a massive movement capable of making the political price of Mumia's incarceration and execution too high to pay. Mumia is alive and fighting today because of that movement. Those dedicated to his freedom, and who stand opposed to the death penalty more generally, are urged to get involved. Free Mumia!

Contact the Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal in California, (510) 268-9429, or the International Concerned Family and Friends of Mumia Abu-Jamal in Pennsylvania, (215) 476-8812.

Jeff Mackler is the director of the Northern California-based Mobilization to Free Mumia Abu-Jamal. This article was written 1/26/2010.

All Power to the People!



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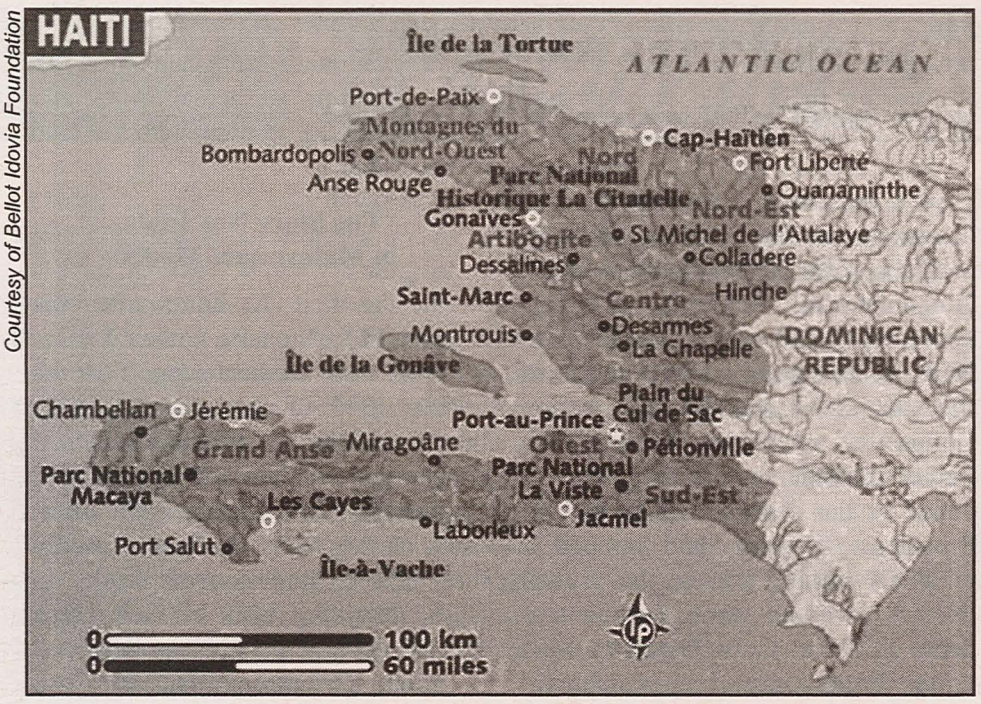
Courtesy of Bellot Idovia Foundation



LaTortue has a population of 63,000, and the size is 23 miles in length and 4.4 miles in width.

Bellot Idovia Foundation

Continued from page 13

inverter that takes the sun energy and converts it into usable electricity.

Having access to electricity has made it easier to respond to and treat nighttime emergencies including births, safely and more effectively. Before the introduction of solar electricity, the clinic staff would use a small kerosene oil lamp or a diesel gas generator, which oftentimes wouldn't have fuel due to the high cost. Haiti is ideal for solar power because the land is positioned geographically so that the sun hits at a 10 degree angle which enables the panels to absorb optimal amounts of sun energy. Our goal for November 2010 is to expand the system on the clinic and install another system on a local school that will be a key player in the launching of an evening adult literacy program for women.

The Bellot Idovia Foundation was formed by two brothers native to Haiti. Their mission is to build a partnership with the people of Ile de la Tortue (La Toti), Haiti, to implement community and infrastructure projects that empower native Haitians to rebuild and maintain their communities and secure their own future. For more information visit: www.bellotidovia.org.

Antoine Bellot, co-founder of the Bellot Idovia Foundation, is a native of Haiti, and is an active representative and advocate of the Haitian community. He currently lives in Oakland, Calif. Contact him at: info@bellotidovia.org

All Power to the People!

Haiti Action Committee Statement

Continued from page 12

malevolent economic practices have set the stage for the disaster Haiti is being forced to endure today. Under democratically elected President Aristide, Haiti's social services were priority one. Haiti had effective emergency-preparedness programs in place. Hundreds of Haitian doctors and thousands of citizens were trained in first aid and other emergency procedures. Unfortunately, Haiti's entire emergency response system was systematically destroyed once President Aristide was kidnapped and removed from his country in 2004.

At this point, the U.S. military immediately shut down Haiti's medical schools in order to transform hospitals into military barracks for the invading forces occupying Haiti. Doctors, nurses and lab techs were locked out of their facilities as the sick and elderly were forced into the streets.

Although Haiti has been misrepresented as one of the poorest countries in the world, it is actually one of the richest countries on earth. This agricultural powerhouse is also ripe with gold, silver, uranium, bauxite deposits and oil reserves. That's why the UN and the USA want control of Haiti. President Aristide, however, wants Haitians to control Haiti. Aristide always put the people's welfare above the profane desire for profits. There was dignity for work, respect for the poor and hope for the future. All people, rich or poor, had direct access to Aristide and the national palace. There was no discrimination or preferential treatment. Haiti's democratic movement was a national success.

Although Haiti is not at war with anyone, many European countries are at war against Haiti. Since the earthquake, 20,000 USA troops came to Haiti to "secure" the island. According to friends and family members, troops guarded the UN embassy and the banks in Haiti. They patrolled streets and assisted vacationing foreigners. They also halted the distribution of aid to Haitians while observing their misery and death. The airport was immediately shut down. Food and emergency supplies went undistributed as countless Haitian men, women, and children were allowed to perish. The escalating, foreign military takeover of Haiti is a pretext to further destroy Haiti's democratic movement. Haitians want to know why 20,000 USA marines are in Haiti because they were not part of any type of rescue services. Under the auspices of foreign aid, invading, corrupt forces have shown a systematic lack of respect of human rights and justice in Haiti. Foreign occupation, poverty, kidnapping, sex-slavery, along with the abuse of women and children continue to climb. The International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank (WB) have contrived sadistic policies that force Haitian farmers and agriculturalists off their land, forcing them to import food from USA and other wealthy, foreign countries. Wages were further depressed as forced dependency on exports escalated. Once the IMF and WB denied Haiti the right to invest in its agricultural development, the country was forced to import 186,000 metric tons of rice (1996) as opposed to the 7,000 tons imported per year (1986). Farmers have been transformed into depressed pools of unemployed labor, forced to toil in foreign sweat shops. Over a 40 year period, Port-au-Prince grew from a population of approximately 200,000 to 3 million. Today, all who promote democracy in Haiti continue to be attacked. Bowing to pressure from the European international community, Haiti's prisons were filled with Lavalas members, Aristide voters and supporters. Fortunately, the earthquake freed many of Haiti's innocent, yet illegally detained citizens. However, Haiti's only democratic political party, Fanmi Lavalas, remains feared and banned because their social platform is "investing in human beings."

The Haiti Action Committee is a leading news source for breaking news and analysis on the current situation in Haiti. Based in the San Francisco Bay Area, they are a network of activists who have supported the Haitian struggle since 1991, and have fostered extensive contacts with grassroots movements in Haiti. Visit them at www.haitiaction.net, or write them at info@haitiaction.net

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Haiti Quake

Continued from page 1

LaBossiere of HERF requested immediate help from Quality Medical Relief (QMR), a non-profit international medical relief group run by Tina Flores of Oakland, California. QMR mobilized its contacts throughout the U.S. to recruit medical professionals and donations of medical supplies to deliver direct aid to the Haitian people in Port-au-Prince. With its network already in operation in Haiti, HERF ensured that independent medical aid reached people and areas overlooked or abandoned by official relief efforts.

He explained that his group, Haiti Emergency Relief Fund, with the help of Quality Medical Relief, was able to facilitate the travel of 11 medical teams of doctors and nurses from across the United States to the Port-au-Prince area in the first month following the January 12 quake; by April they had sent 30 medical teams to serve the Haitian people.

HERF has also supported a series of neighborhood committees organized by grassroots activists in Port-au-Prince that are housing the homeless and providing food and water; interviews with the people there revealed that they had never seen any U.S. military or UN aid to their area. LaBossiere describes their work as neighbors helping neighbors, Haitians helping Haitians and activists helping to sustain their local areas.

Since its inception in March 2004, the Haiti Emergency Relief Fund has given concrete aid to Haiti's democratic movement as they attempted to survive the brutal coup against their democratically elected president, Jean-Bertrand Aristide, and to rebuild shattered development projects.

Haiti: The Aftermath

Although donors from throughout the U.S. and around the world poured billions of dollars into relief funds following the horrific news of the 7.2 trembler, six months later, 1.5 million Haitian earthquake victims remain homeless, most without potable water, with more lives endangered as each day passes.

According to a story published in *Caribbean Life*, "No shelter from the storm for Haiti quake victims" (June 9-15) bylined by Ben Fox, as the hurricane season, predicted to be one of the wettest on record, began in early June, "there has been little progress on clearing rubble so people can return to their neighborhoods or build sturdier shelters. Dr. Jean Pape, one of the country's most prominent public health experts, estimates that only 1% of the masses stuck in dangerous flood zones have been relocated." Hundreds of thousands have only tarps or fraying tents at some 1,200 "temporary" camps where residents are soaked with each summer downpour, the campgrounds transformed into deep mud and puddles of putrid water breeding disease-carrying mosquitoes.

According to *Caribbean Life*, "The international community and private aid groups have pledged or delivered $3.1 billion to help Haiti after the earthquake and are promising nearly $10 billion more for reconstruction. But so far, the government has relocated only about 7,000 vulnerable people to two safer camps."

This daily suffering and unfolding of further catastrophe in earthquake-devastated Haiti is no longer headline news in the U.S. mainstream press; the U.S. Navy Ship "Comfort" sailed away from Port-au-Prince just seven weeks after the quake and as of June 1, the U.S. officially ended its "military relief mission" there, that many Haitians described as more of a military occupation than a relief effort.

June 1 marked former U.S. President Bill Clinton's first visit to Haiti since he had been named co-chair of the new Interim Haiti Reconstruction Committee (IHRC), setup when the U.S. and UN self-declared themselves in charge of overseeing billions in aid relief funds contributed from around the world. Per a March 31, 2010 release from the UN Department of Public Information, a UN International Donors' Conference raised $9.9 billion in pledges from 59 donors. "The funds would be managed by a multi-donor reconstruction fund for Haiti and an interim commission over which Bill Clinton, UN Special Envoy for Haiti, would preside alongside (Haiti) Prime Minister Jean-Max Bellerive," the press release said. The UN donors' conference was co-chaired by U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.

According to a *Caribbean Life* article "U.S. ends Haiti military mission" (June 9-15, 2010) bylined by Nelson A. King, Bill Clinton announced in Léogne, Haiti that his foundation had pledged $2 million for Haiti, earmarking $1 million of the total for "disaster preparedness and hurricane safety" and the other $1 million to fund the Interim Haiti Reconstruction Commission (IHRC) that "is working to spend more than $5 billion in foreign aid."

Oakland Sister Cities Summit Reports on Cuba's Role in Haiti Relief

The Cubans, who were already in Haiti aiding with development of the health care system and education of Haitians as medical doctors at the time that the earthquake struck, remain in and increased their assistance to Haiti, living up to their commitment to sustain aid "for as long as it takes" to help Haitians build a better future for their long-impoverished population.

On Saturday May 29, LaBossiere gave a presentation and led a panel discussion at the Oakland-Santiago de Cuba Sister Cities Summit in the Humanist Hall, Oakland, California about relief and rebuilding needs in Haiti. LaBossiere, also founder of the Oakland-based Haitian Action Committee, explained that in 1998, Father Aristide, in his first term of office as the democratically elected President of Haiti, had opened a medical school, asking the Cuban doctors to come teach Haitian students in Haiti; Cuba began to send volunteer doctors and other technical personnel from Cuba to Haiti to help Haiti develop its own medical system and their own capacity for running it. This was critical after Haiti had suffered a major drain of its more educated youth and professional people to the U.S. and other nations.

The 2004 U.S.-inspired coup that took Aristide out of Haiti also kicked out the 240 medical students, closed down Haiti's Cuban-aided medical school and built a military base in its place.

"Many of those students who were kicked out in 2004 are healing Haitians today. We have been told a trail of lies," LaBossiere said. Several medical students from the Latin American School of Medicine (ELAM) in Havana, Cuba, were in attendance at the May 29 presentation in Oakland to add their firsthand accounts of the work they accomplished in Haiti with the help of the Cuban doctors.

LaBossiere made it clear that the most important thing happening in Haiti in terms of actual relief and rebuilding is being done with the help of the Cubans.

The Story Not Told in Mainstream Media

In the first 72 hours after the January 12 earthquake, Cuban doctors were the main medical support for the country. 344 of them were already there, as Cuba has provided medical cooperation to Haiti continuously for the past 11 years, starting in the aftermath of the 1998 Hurricane George that caused hundreds of deaths in Haiti, destroyed 80% of their crops and left 167,000 people homeless.

From 1999 through January 2010, Cuba trained some 550 Haitian doctors, at no cost to the medical students, during six years of training in Havana, and at present is training another 567. The requirement of these students, in exchange, is their pledge to return to Haiti to provide the medical care so urgently needed there in their own country.

In the past decade, an estimated 6,094 Cuban medical personnel have worked in Haiti. By 2007, Cuban medical personnel were estimated to be treating 75% of the Haitian population with an effective emphasis on preventative medicine that raised the life expectancy seven years from 54 in 1999 to 61 by 2007, according to an article, "One of the World's Best Kept Secrets: Cuban Medical Aid to Haiti" (April 25, 2010), by Emily J. Kirk and John M. Kirk, academics working on a project sponsored by the Social Science and Humanities Research Council of Canada. Cubans have also aided with literacy — teaching

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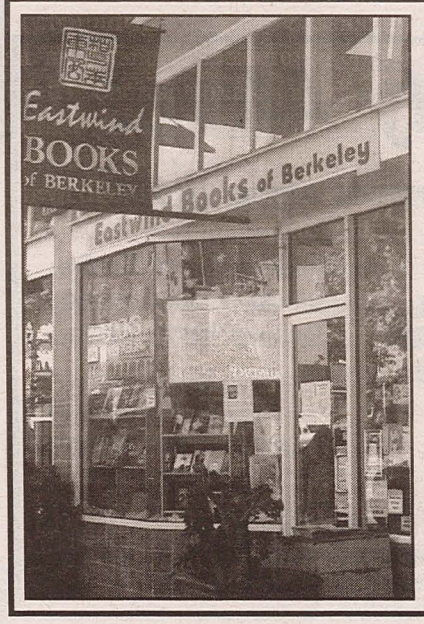

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The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela delivered relief supplies to stricken Haiti following the massive January 12 quake.

165,000 Haitians how to read — and aided with agriculture and other development fields.

Cuban doctors living and working in Port-au-Prince and the surrounding areas went into action the minute the shocks of the quake stopped; they got themselves out of the rubble and immediately began to save others. Within the first 24 hours, Cuban medical personnel had completed 1,000 emergency surgeries, turned their living quarters into clinics, and were running the only medical centers in the country, including five comprehensive diagnostic centers (small hospitals) that they had built prior to the quake.

Another 350 Cuban medical personnel joined them from the Henry Reeve Emergency Response Medical Brigade. (The Cuban Henry Reeve Medical Brigade was first formed in August 2005 in response to the terrible plight of U.S. residents in New Orleans when Hurricane Katrina hit and the levees broke and the U.S. government rescue operations didn't start for days. Thousands of Cubans volunteered and prepared themselves to deliver medical care, water sanitation treatment and other vital emergency aid, but the U.S. government refused to allow these international volunteers to enter the U.S.)

Then 546 graduates of ELAM from a variety of countries joined them, as did 184 fifth- and sixth-year Haitian students of ELAM. By the third week following the quake, Cuba was responsible for some 1,500 medical personnel in Haiti.

When the earthquake hit, the U.S. government deployed 11,000 soldiers from the Southern Command to protect the port, airports, supplies and resources being shipped in. Many Haitians and others on site including, international journalists, said the U.S. military was holding up distribution of incoming relief supplies. Haitian demonstrators said it looked like a war zone or an occupation, not a disaster relief operation.

LaBossiere said, in his May 29 speech before the Sister Cities Summit, that all those billions of dollars the U.S. media had talked about being donated to Haiti have not reached the people of Haiti. "What the people see is parasites with big salaries. Right now, people are demonstrating. This is the reality," he explained.

One of the participants in the audience asked if LaBossiere saw that there would ever be a day when Haiti is free, and, with Obama in office, could he visualize any change? LaBossiere said, "I think it was Frederick Douglass who said, 'The limit of tyranny is set by those who are oppressed.' Despite Obama, I am talking about a system. We need a strong movement. It does not matter who the President is. It is the system you have to fight to change. I read a story in the news about a bombed village in Afghanistan, and the U.S. put up a new structure for them to live in within two hours. In Haiti, it has been over five months and the U.S. has built no houses, done nothing. People are living in the rain, in the mud. People are hungry."

Disaster Capitalism Kicks In

Bill Clinton, now the UN Special Envoy to Haiti and co-chair for the UN-sponsored Interim Haiti Reconstruction Committee (IHRC), had arranged for the dumping of cheap U.S.-subsidized rice into the Haitian market during his presidency, wiping out the ability of Haitian farmers to grow and sell their own rice — one of the many exteriorly imposed causes of hunger in Haiti today.

The IHRC, featured at the March International Donors' Conference, organized by the U.S., is planning with the World Bank and IMF how they envision the "rebuilding of Haiti." One component of their stated plan is to expand Haitian agriculture-for-export crops. On June 4, 8,000-10,000 Haitian peasants marched in Papay, Haiti with slogans of "Down with Monsanto, Down Préval." According to an article entitled "Haitian Grain Uproar – Hybrid 'seed of death' riles peasant farmers" from *Caribbean Life* (June 9-16, 2010), bylined by Tequila Minsky, these protesters claimed that the Haitian government is misleading them with seed donations from the U.S. multinational agricultural company, Monsanto, via USAID.

"The donated seeds are hybrid and farmers fear they are being given seeds that will threaten local varieties… the seeds require special handling due to their chemical treatment." Protesters claim that the Haitian government is taking advantage of the earthquake to sell Haiti's natural resources to multinationals. "If you let Monsanto seeds enter the country, this is the same scenario …as the eradication of the Creole pig that ruined Haitian farmers in the '80s,' said David Millet, French agronomist… 'American expertise dictated killing the Haitian pig, as a way for the introduction of the American pig — an unsuccessful program with pigs not adapted to the Haitian environment,' Millet explained."

The IHRC called for increasing foreign investment for clothing manufacturing (sweatshops) and other schemes that would profit the investors but are, to a large degree, antithetical to what Haiti needs for its development as a sovereign nation.

The funds for "rebuilding" programs — in the name of disaster relief — are going directly to the foreign companies getting the contracts or to large NGOs not run by the Haitians. The World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) direct the IHRC funding.

This scenario is an example of a process referred to as "disaster capitalism:" agents of international monopoly capitalism move opportunistically into disaster zones, whether manmade by war or natural disasters such as tsunamis and earthquakes, that are experiencing intensification of poverty that is widely publicized in the mass media, engendering great outpourings of financial donations. Then they launch "rebuilding" campaigns designed for their *own* profit while the host country is in a weakened position, if not desperate for aid.

True Solidarity from Latin America

In contrast, during the March 31, 2010 UN Conference on Haiti, the Latin American trade bloc known as ALBA (Bolivarian Alliance for the Americas), pledged $2.42 billion in reconstruction aid between the years 2010-2016. ALBA was formed in 2004 as a solidarity-based alternative to profit-driven free trade pacts, and its members include Venezuela, Ecuador, Nicaragua, Bolivia, Cuba, Dominica, St. Vincent and the Grenadines and Antigua & Barbuda.

Half the ALBA money will be given as direct aid to Haiti, the other half will be rendered in services to Haiti's devastated housing, infrastructure, waste management, energy, education, health care and agricultural systems. The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela had already cancelled Haiti's foreign debt to Venezuela immediately following the January 12 quake and called upon other nations and international financial institutions to follow their example by canceling Haiti's foreign debt.

ALBA has assigned Cuba the role of managing all of ALBA's contributions to Haiti's health care system, which will include the construction of more than 100 public health clinics with capacity to provide primary care, emergency room, midwifery, vaccinations, physical therapy and rehabilitation, public health education and other key services.

Cuba presented their plan, an integrated program, to the World Health Organization (WHO), pledging to not only reconstruct, but to create the health care system that the Haitian people have never enjoyed. It will be funded by ALBA and Brazil, run by Cuban and Cuban-trained medical personnel and will be owned by the Haitians. This medical mission will be independent of the "reconstruction commission" headed by Clinton.

Henriette Chamouillet, WHO representative in Haiti, has praised the medical aid that Cuban doctors have been providing to one of the poorest countries in the world for some years. On June 3 Chamouillet, when speaking with representatives of *Granma,* said that Haiti would need international support for many years. However, she said, "It is important that aid is aligned and subordinated to the policy of the Haitian Ministry of Health, a policy linked to the values embodied in the cooperation of Cuba, the WHO and the Pan American Health Organization, which defends populational access to free health services. One of the problems of the Haitian health system is the existence here of many non-governmental organizations, which arrived after the earthquake and are working without coordinating their efforts with the Ministry. Many of those NGOs have left, but we are advocating that those remaining in the country should work in a more coordinated manner."

The Cubans have not left Haiti and, acting in a true spirit of international solidarity, have pledged to stay for as long as it takes to help Haiti build what it needs to stand free as a sovereign and developed nation.

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Win All Power

Continued from page 2

surrender their homes instead of going through foreclosure.

There was no "bailout" for hundreds of thousands of Americans caught up in the mortgage scam that had been set up years before, with government collusion.

The January 2008 *Commemorator* featured an editorial that detailed the "housing crisis" genesis and the then-snowballing financial plummet. We noted that the Federal Reserve Board had raised interest rates in the summer of 2006 after five years of artificially setting their rates low, thereby duping working people into buying homes they could not afford. Millions of Americans had taken out home equity loans without realizing they had been lied to: the terms would make it impossible for them to repay.

American workers and small business owners simultaneously fell into soaring credit card debt to pay the bills. Already by 2004 the median American household debt had risen to over $100,000. The federal government allowed this for the purpose of artificially propping up the economy based on the so-called consumer-spending index.

The real bandits got away scot-free. But the crimes have not been stopped: regardless of the speech-making to the contrary, facts show that bailouts to the wealthy persist while impoverishment of the working-class grows.

Bailing out the wealthy at the expense of the poor

The United States government recently loaned over $60 billion to the world's largest automobile corporation. The deal: 62% of General Motors Corporation ownership by law allegedly becomes the possession of the American People, via the federal government.

So how is it that General Motor's current CEO, Edward Whitacre, Jr., is to receive $7.3 million in stock on top of his $1.3 million salary at a time when the American taxpayers are footing the bill for his company's survival during the biggest depression ever? We know one thing for certain: the American people did not approve this.

Multinationals continue to be handed a free ride by state and federal governments granting them exemptions from paying their fair share of the tax burden. "Enterprise Zone" (EZ) waivers represent a substantial loss in tax revenue needed for public services of all kinds, yet have failed for 25 years to generate the new jobs promised by this policy based on the trickle-down economics theory enacted in the 1980s under President Reagan.

"Do California Enterprise Zones Creates Jobs?," a study by Jed Kolko and David Neumark of Public Policy Institute of California (www.ppic.org), reads in part: "The absence of evidence of a beneficial effect of enterprise zones on job and business creation clearly calls into question whether the state should continue to grant enterprise zone tax incentives."

According to the "California Labor Federation Fact Sheet, 2010": "The Enterprise Zones program is a good example of the inadequate oversight of the Tax Expenditure Program (TEP), costing the state nearly $50 billion dollars in 2008-09. Companies have been able to take advantage of enterprise zones, where workers are not allowed to organize unions for collective bargaining..."

While large California corporations continue to get billions in tax breaks and government subsidies, $17 billion has been cut from the California budget for public schools and colleges over the last two years. More cuts are planned in the 2010-11 state budget. Entire art, music and physical education programs have been eliminated. More than 16,000 educators have lost their jobs.

Oil: Military repression vs. humanitarian solutions

Here in the U.S., residents whose lives and futures are directly affected are demanding a solution to the massive, uncontrolled BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

During the Katrina disaster there, the world witnessed heavy-handed military posturing and occupation of communities that were devastatingly poor *before* the storm, and that remain poor today. The area is being rebuilt in the image of developers, not in relation to the needs of the people, many of whom are people of color. 50% of the former residents of the Lower Ninth Ward have never been able to return home, nor has the area "become whole" again.

Now many of these same areas are victimized by the massive oil spill. We would not be surprised if a similar scenario of a massive land grab by real estate speculators, as already seen after Katrina, is now, again, in the offing: buy up coastal lands at bargain prices to redevelop it later, flipping properties for (presumed) massive profits for a few.

As we saw in the aftermath of Katrina, Haiti's people are today continuing to suffer under a militaristic and financially driven response to the recent earthquake disaster. Now, some six months since the quake struck, despite an outpouring of donations to the official "relief" agencies, the majority of the victims have yet to receive adequate food, housing, sanitation, medical supplies and the means for economic development. It is not sufficient to call for a return to their prior condition, for they were already living in grinding poverty, many driven to eating clay. As the rainy season came, tens of thousands remained without even basic shelter.

The United States government set up military operations to guard Haitian ports and borders before allowing food, medical supplies and other humanitarian aid to reach the needy masses. Through the actions of the U.S. government, occupation, not aid, appeared to be the primary mission. There has been more money spent by the U.S. on pre-empting systemic political change in the interest of the struggling poor, than official humanitarian assistance in Haiti.

Letter to the Editor

Continued from page 10

action, Ingram intentionally is trying to stack the deck against any opposition to the sale of Berkeley's 75 public housing units, under the guise of reactivating the RAB.

Ingram and the BHA commissioners need the RAB to be pliant and available, to provide input and comments on the BHA's Annual Plan before it can be implemented, and Ingram is seeking enough people for the RAB who are willing to go along with the plan to sell Berkeley's public housing, as a way to fight back against those who are in opposition to the sale of Berkeley's public housing. Ingram has already made her choice, and has chosen volunteers for the RAB that she feels may be bent to her will.

In a Feb. 11 statement to the BHA's board members, Ingram wrote, "It is critical that we use the Annual Plan process to carefully review and redefine our discretionary policies and procedures. A collaborative effort with participants who have BIG PICTURE vision, and can work in a collaborative, respective manner is critical," says Ingram.

The big picture is that BHA's executive director Tia Ingram has absolute power over those in the BHA's public housing and Section 8 program being selected for the RAB, and due to annual contract recertifications continually taking place in the BHA's housing programs, tenants in those programs feel intense pressure to do whatever it takes to make the BHA happy, as a way to renew their contracts.

Indeed, the pressure is mounting on Berkeley's public housing and Section 8 tenants to go along with the plan to sell Berkeley's 75 public housing units, and on Feb. 11, Ingram provided a list of tenants names she wants for the RAB, to the BHA's commissioners.

As further evidence of the scheme to stack the deck against those in opposition to the sale of Berkeley's public housing, in a state of panic Ingram informed the BHA commissioners that, "We learned recently, via the media, and a communication from HUD that some public housing residents have organized and are meeting. This committee has not advised BHA of its existence, has not shared its concerns with the BHA, nor has it identified its membership."

Ingram is referring to the public housing tenants group called Residents Awareness in Action, including the 20 public housing tenants or more that signed a letter to HUD stating that they are in opposition to the sale of their long-time public housing.

In addition, James E. Vann who was the architect for Berkeley's public housing units back in the early to mid 80s is shocked by the plan to sell it's valuable public housing and said, "The city and BHA promised to keep it's public housing permanent (in perpetuity) to receive a special "Title 1 Grant" of funding from HUD to build that housing for the poor, and now they are breaking their promise to current and future generations of the poor, who desperately need low-income housing to remain in their communities."

So-called affordable housing is not the same as low-income housing, because so-called nonprofit housing developers discriminate against the poor with their minimum income requirements.

Lynda Carson

Berkeley's public housing residents invite the public to join them in the struggle to save Berkeley's public housing, and urge the public to join them on Saturday mornings from 10am to 12pm at Intercity Services, 3269 Adeline St., in Berkeley, for their weekly meetings. Contact; saveberkeleypublichousing@gmail.com

Lynda Carson may be reached at tenantsrule@yahoo.com

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Organize, Join CCBPP

Now is the time our communities must unite to build independent organization through which we can put the BPP Ten-Point Program and Revolutionary Intercommunalism into action.

We must take back our communities from these fascist institutions of the bourgeoisie government that act only on behalf of the wealthy imperialist class. We need efforts of organizations representing working-class people that fight for real alternatives.

The forces of international capitalism seek to penetrate and divide our communities through hi-tech distractions, drugs and issues of a non-class character, while the mainstream media spreads misinformation that sows distrust among all those who are looking for a strategy that could unite our communities together. It is time to collectivize all those victimized by the reactionary policies of the imperialist United States government to make our voices heard.

We must demand necessities: a living income, affordable housing, affordable quality health care, affordable quality education and for the United States government to end all wars of aggression, to immediately end police brutality and immediately end the senseless murder of blacks and all working-class people worldwide.

Here and now, we must join together via organization that gets the word out about what is really going on and to carry out our own programs to really take control of the future course of our history.

CCBPP needs you to build our literacy campaign, and to produce and distribute *The Commemorator* to reach the masses, organizing our people into a struggle for real solutions.

We need your participation and support. If you are interested in making a difference in turning around the systematic robbery to which working-class communities are currently subjected; if you want to take part in building positive programs that promote a real voice and the power for real change, please contact Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) at (510) 652-7170.

All Power to the People!

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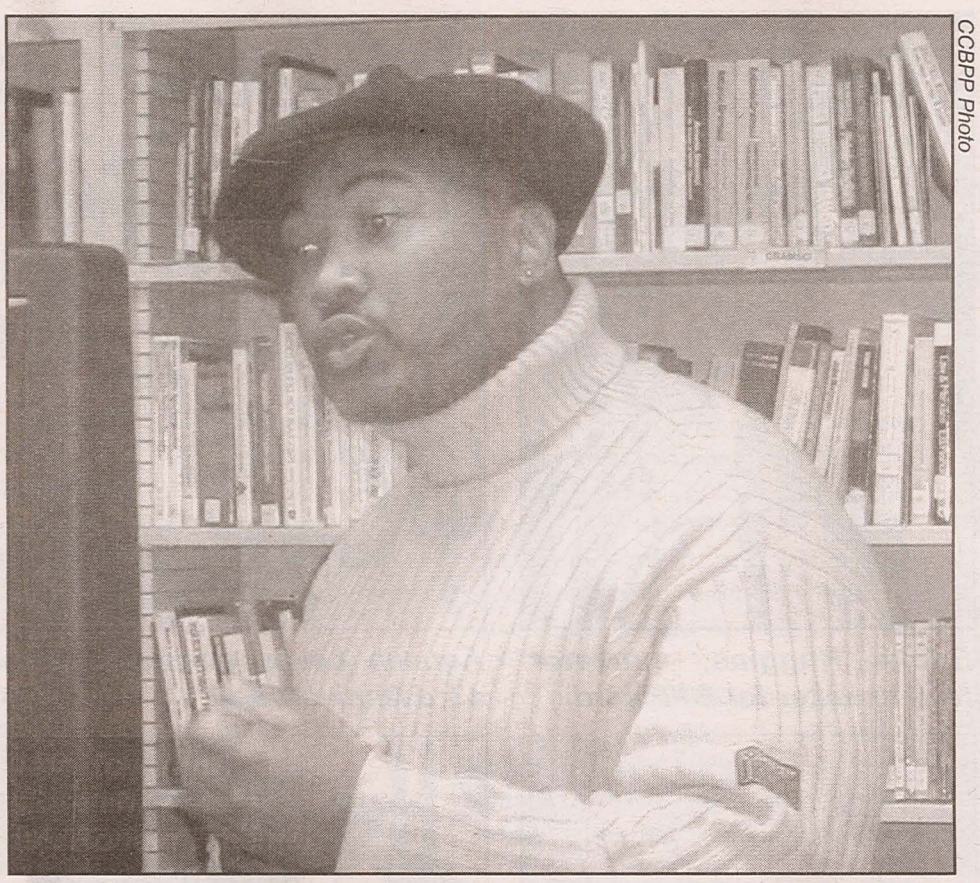
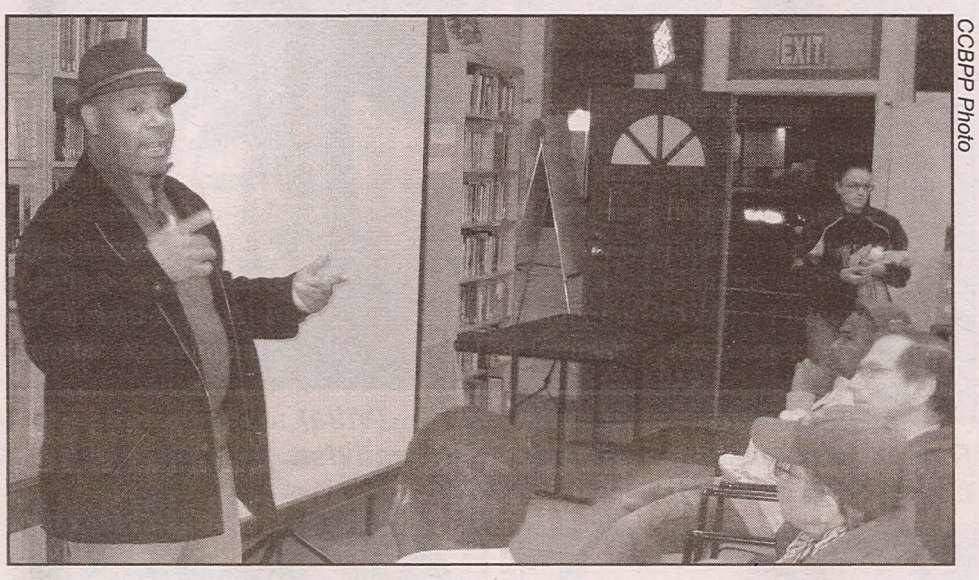


CCBPP Photo

Fred Hampton Jr., featured speaker to commemorate the 40th anniversary of his father's assassination by Chicago Police.



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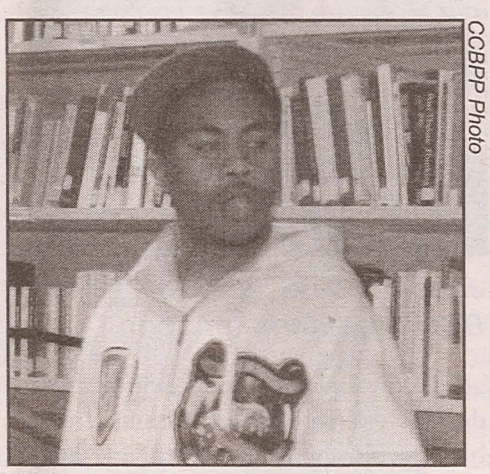
Emory Douglas, artist and published author, gives a presentation on BPP history.



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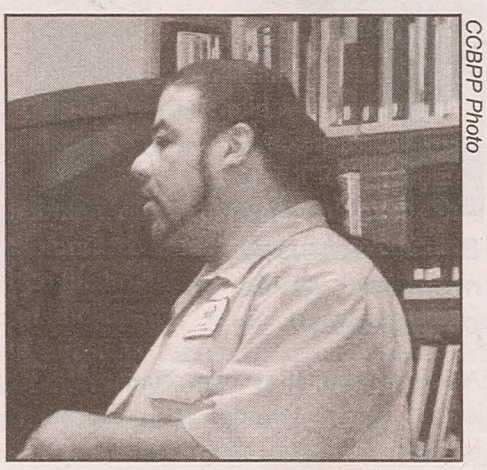
JR Valery gave an update on the Oscar Grant Case and the murder trial of former officer Johannes Mehserle.



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Jack Bryson, Sr., father of Nijar and Jack Bryson, Jr., witnesses to the murder of Oscar Grant III.

CCBPP Photo

Eseibio Halliday, Franco, JR Valery, Fred Hampton Jr., Ollie King (foreground, right), Melvin Dickson and Emory Douglas.

Fred Hampton 40th Anniversary

Continued from page 6

"Six years previous, the Blackstone Rangers and the Devil's Disciples were shooting each other," Kifner wrote, but "the new mood of black consciousness and militancy developing within many of the gangs — particularly the Rangers, a coalition of some 50 gangs — represented, in some ways, a greater potential threat to the order of the city's feudal politics."

The awakening of the consciousness of the oppressed, as Kifner described in the Chicago resistance movement, has always been the primary threat to state power. Today, just as it was some 40 years ago, state violence against the people is a reaction to this threat.

CCBPP was also honored to host Emory Douglas, the former BPP Minister of Culture. Douglas gave the feature presentation on the history of the Black Panther Party with a slideshow of illustrations from his book, *Black Panther Party: The Revolutionary Art of Emory Douglas*, and a slideshow on his visit to New Zealand where his art was on display.

Douglas created some of the artwork most closely associated with the Panthers and Fred Hampton. His work is an example of the power of art to awaken and inspire the people.

Where is the Issue of Police Brutality Today?

The story of the police raid and murders in Chicago on December 4, 1969, while vital in its own right as a telling piece of history, is indeed much more than an artifact. Its relevance today is stronger than ever. The cynical opportunism demonstrated on the domestic front by the U.S. government in its post-9/11 "anti-terrorism" campaign is an amplification of the reactionary practice defining the COINTELPRO era.

In the last decade, we have seen our constitutional rights and civil liberties eroded. From the Patriot Act's sweeping surveillance powers to the Supreme Court's recent dismantling of habeas corpus for "enemy combatants," police at all levels of government have never been so officially oriented toward, if not vindicated by, fear-mongering and demagoguery that boldly abrogates U.S. constitutional protections of the people.

The senseless murder last year of Oscar Grant III in Oakland was an example of that fear of the people. Grant, like Hampton, Jr.'s father, was unarmed and killed by the police in cold blood.

Indeed, police officers typically receive police academy training that teaches them to target people of color or anyone found within low-income, deteriorating and increasingly desperate neighborhoods; or a low-income person of color entering higher-income neighborhoods that officers are trained to guard and protect.

Economic segregation continues, with the police as tools to protect property over all else, conditioned to view their fellow citizens as a threat.

All Power to the People!

Panthers 43rd

Continued from page 6

Ethnic Studies, and how it transformed her life.

Robert King Wilkerson, the only free member of the Angola 3, illustrated the human rights issue concerning political prisoners and explained the similarities between enslavement and prison, and the illusion of freedom in American society. King called on all to take up the issue of political prisoners just as they would the fight to abolish slavery.

Sultan Ahmad's eleven-year old son, Sultan Jihad Ahmad was gunned down by another youth for speaking his mind over unrelated matters. Ahmad felt as though he had let his late son down. Ahmad spoke emphatically to students at Laney College to "Make good decisions." His story provided a tragic example of what can go wrong when impulse and emotion are acted upon thoughtlessly.

Lorraine Taylor, head of the organization 1,000 Mothers to Prevent Violence presented a song, "Take A Stand," to the audience, while Aqueila Lewis presided over the day as Master of Ceremonies.

Vukani Mawethu, an a capella chorus, sang songs venerating both past and present revolutionary leaders in styles and languages native to South Africa.

Young artists J-Million and Ozone of Turf Unity Project performed "Breathe," a piece about the realities of urban violence, and "Change the Nation," a song that speaks to the greater problems in urban America and their vision for a better society.

Eseibio Halliday, a hip hop artist and an organizer for the Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party, gave premiere performances of his newest songs, "Freestylin'" and "Free them all", calling for the release of all political prisoners from his new album titled "Popular Revolution."

Ramadan Hassan of Youthspeaks ignited those present with her powerful prose, vividly illustrating the horrors and pain endured by our brothers and sisters living under violent, oppressive conditions in Palestine at the hands of the Israeli government. She also delivered a powerful piece dedicated to Oscar Grant III, linking his untimely death to a greater plight and struggle shared by those around the globe.

A host of organizations were present at the occasion, and many came to the stage to introduce themselves, their respective organizations, and their mission to bring about positive social change.

Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign, represented by Frances Moore, Joanne Martinez, Lisa Chavez, Eseibio Halliday and Cali Joy Sanchez, announced a need for volunteer tutors and donated tutorial space.

Also contributing to the event were students from Humboldt State University and San Francisco State University; The Black Riders, represented by Aitanah; 1,000 Mothers to Prevent Violence, represented by Lorraine Taylor; Oakland-Santiago de Cuba Sister Cities Association represented by Tina Flores and Free the Cuban Five Committee represented by Alicia Jrapko; It's About Time, represented by its founder Billy X; and Melvin Dickson, Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party Chairman.

On Saturday, October 24, a few trickled in early, but by 2 p.m., at the height of the event, the celebration was festive! Ruth (Villa) Jones, a 103 year-old member of the community, showed up decked out in her Panther regalia: black beret, black leather jacket, dark sunglasses and giving the power sign.

This second day of events was held at Oakland's Laney College Forum with a seating capacity of about 300 people. Brother Sultan Ahmad introduced the co-founder of the BPP by saying, "Let's all welcome my comrade and friend, brother Bobby Seale, on his 73rd birthday!" When Bobby Seale, the co-founder of the Black Panther Party, entered the facility, the people rose to their feet and greeted him, "Happy Birthday, Bobby Seale!"

The place was standing room only. T-shirts, buttons, and banners adorned the entrance. Bobby was decked out in Panther formal dress: black beret, light blue shirt, dark jacket and greeted the enthusiastic audience in return: "All Power to the People, Brothers and Sisters!"

The day's event had begun with former Black Panther leaders from local chapters and branches, including Billy X (William Jennings), of ItsAboutTime, along with Brother Sultan Ahmad from the Philadelphia Chapter who MC'ed the program.

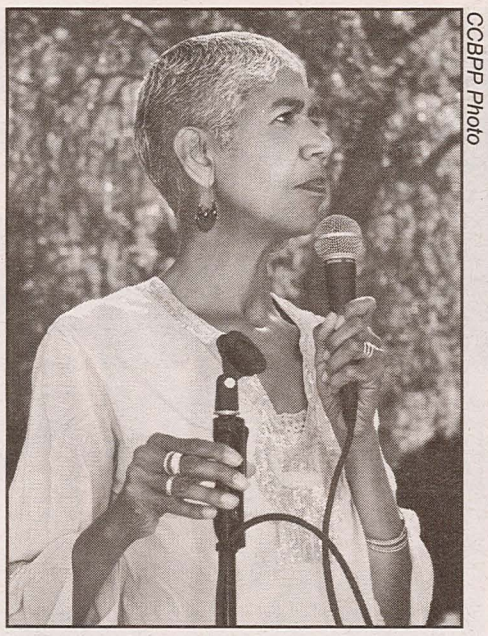
From the New Orleans chapter there was Brother Robert King (Angola 3) and sister Marion Brown. "Herman and Albert must be set free" was their call. They both spoke, giving some of the history of that chapter and an update on Herman Wallace and Albert Woodfox of the Angola 3.

Brother Aaron Dixon, co-founder of the Seattle, Washington BPP chapter, also gave a presentation on its history. "It was April 1968. A group of students from Seattle and I attended the Black Student Union Conference at San Francisco State College. This was the weekend of Li'l Bobby Hutton's funeral. Members from our group — Elmer, Anthony — attended the funeral at a church in south Berkeley. Later that night, after the funeral, Bobby Seale spoke at a San Francisco State BSU Conference. After hearing Bobby speak, we returned to Seattle and started the first BPP chapter outside the state of California."

Elbert "Big Man" Howard made a strong case for organizing a Black Panther Party Museum located in West Oakland, where much of the earliest activity of the party had begun. "Bobby Seale and I have been throwing around the idea of how to put it together."

Barbaretta Newton, wife of Melvin Newton (the brother of Dr. Huey P. Newton), introduced the Job Workshop Panel, assisted by James Motts and attorney James Harrison.

Former BPP members from the Philadelphia area, Brother Sultan Ahmad "Big Herman," who co-MC'ed the program, and Brother Clarence "Stretch" Peterson represented their



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Ericka Huggins, educator, lead speaker for BPP 43rd.

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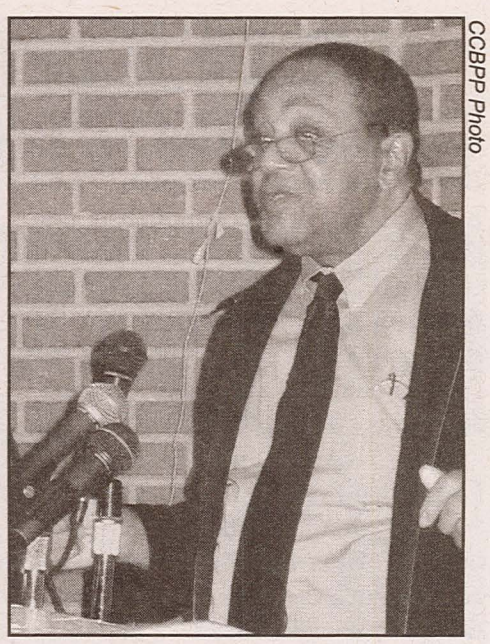
Aqueila Lewis emcees BPP 43rd Anniversary.



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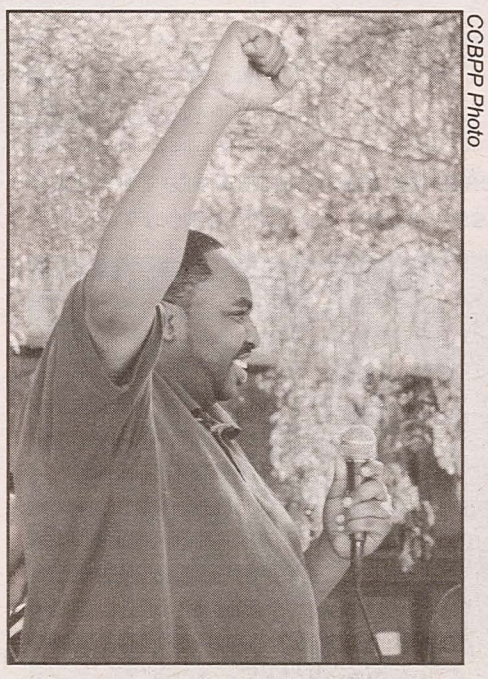
Bobby Seale, BPP co-founder, turns 73 on same day.



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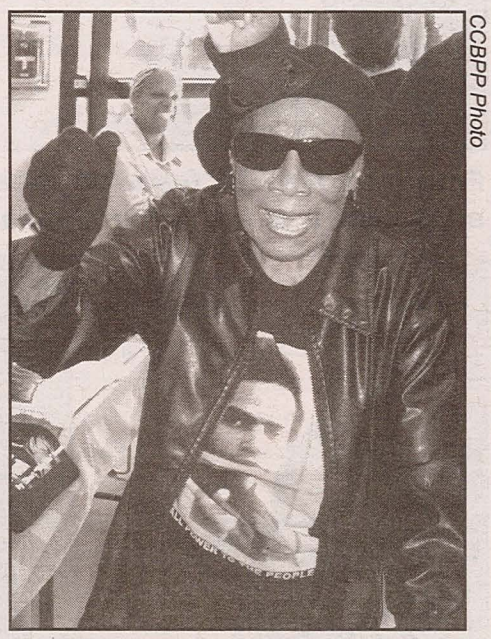
Ray Henderson, former Laney BSU president.



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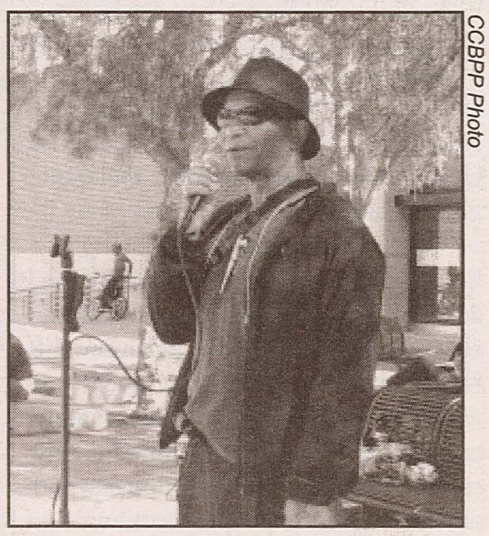
Ruth (Villa) Jones, veteran BPP activist. Now age 104.



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Robert King Wilkerson (member, Angola 3) speaks at BPP 43rd anniversary.

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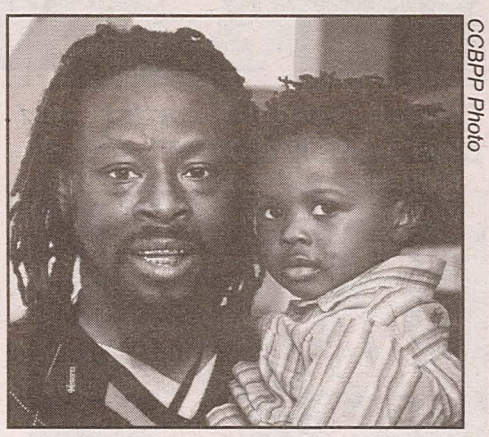
Sultan Ahmad, former BPP member, gives a poignant presentation.



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Jabari Shaw, current Laney BSU President, and son.

CCBPP Photo

Melvin Dickson, Chairman CCBPP.

CCBPP Photo

Frances Moore, Lisa Chaves, child and Johanna Martinez of Li'l Bobby Hutton Literacy Campaign.

CCBPP Photo

The Vukani Mawethu Choir provides inspirational music on behalf of South Africa's continuing struggle.

CCBPP Photo

Barbaretta Newton, CEO Redwood Resources, and James Mott, former BPP member, lead workshop on living wage jobs.

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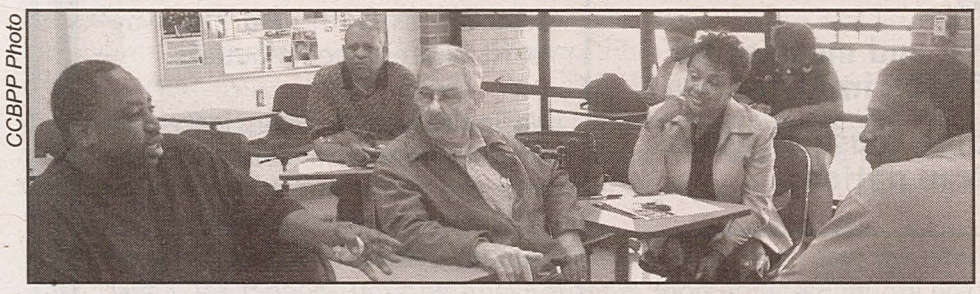

Ray Henderson, former BSU president, discusses unemployment and jobs with participants at workshop.

chapter, passing on best regards from other former chapter members.

Seale spoke for about 30 minutes, telling the story of the early founding days. "Huey and I founded the party after we had researched the history of black people and the jive-time government so-called poverty programs...We were the left of the left." CCBPP volunteers served all a birthday cake in honor of Seale.

The two days of celebration of the 43rd Anniversary of the founding of BPP was a time for former comrades to not only reunite but to contribute to the vital work involved in "the passing of the torch" to young activists — the next cadre to carry our struggle forward — elevating the willingness of all to fight for the realization of the BPP Ten-Point Program.

Such is the testament to the fact that the legacy of the Black Panther Party is alive and fertile today.

All Power to the People!

Mehserle Verdict

Continued from page 5

Mexican immigrants, who are forced to migrate to this country for economic survival due to U.S. imperialist policies that destroyed jobs at home. Arizona Governor Jan Brewer's call for an outright police state has struck a chord and outcry throughout the country but, like the Mehserle case, most accounts deal with it as an anomaly, something idiosyncratic versus part of a bigger picture. We must not lose sight of the systematic and perverse societal pattern of official policy played out in decimation of human lives.

With all this hue and cry, who would realize that the U.S. crime rate has actually fallen since the 1990s, according to major studies? Yet we see increased police apparatus, security checks and use of lethal force against working people of all colors and national origin.

According to the most recent figures from the U.S. Department of Justice, the violent crime rate in Arizona in 2008, for example, was the lowest it has been since 1971; the property crime rate fell to its lowest point since 1966. In the past decade, as undocumented immigrants were drawn in record numbers by the housing boom, the rate of violent crimes in Phoenix and the entire state fell by more than 20%, a steeper drop than in the overall U.S. crime rate. Yet Arizona's governor and the reactionary politicians point to increased crime as their rationale for requiring police to card anyone who appears as if they could be foreign born.

Outcome of Mehserle Trial — Where to From Here?

On July 8 Mehserle was convicted of involuntary manslaughter with his sentence still to be issued by the court. Regardless of the sentence, the outcome of the Johannes Mehserle trial for the murder of Oscar Grant III manifests a broader issue, much larger than both Mehserle and the late Oscar Grant III. It represents the expansion of a police state across the United States with the consequential results: increased police brutality and murder of people of color and the poor.

Undoubtedly, accountability for the murder of Oscar Grant (a black youth) must be demanded. Guilty parties, including Johannes Mehserle, need to be punished appropriately as one of the measures needed to insure that this pattern is stopped. But to only punish Mehserle leaves the underlying problem in full force and effect.

Broader measures must be taken to end these police practices and repressive government policies: 1) Demand full employment for our people at livable pay or income. This will require ending the practice of using public tax-dollars for the expansion of the U.S.' trillion-dollar imperialist wars in the Middle East and their promotion of Israeli aggression. Those U.S. tax dollars could be used instead to solve the problem of poverty and joblessness for working people inside the U.S., Mexico and Central America. 2) End the U.S. prison industrial complex and instead use those tax dollars for the improvement of U.S. schools and colleges, community health clinics, hospitals and social services.

Activists must delineate themselves from the rioters who play into the hand of those who, fearing to lose what they have, support the government-enforced practice of police brutality. If you act like a rioter, they can beat you, arrest you and charge you as a criminal, if not a "terrorist." The government and the corporate media will use such actions to discredit the issue and undermine the gravity of the real issue of our living under a police state.

In addition to demanding Justice for Oscar Grant III, activists need to demand, right alongside of that, an end to imperialist aggression, led by the United State's monopoly capitalism, and for our tax dollars to go to full employment with living incomes, affordable public education, health care and housing. That is, address the issue of poverty — as it is truly at the heart of the cause of a police state that fears its own people.

All Power to the People

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We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions that exist in our communities.

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AIDS in Africa: New Plague or Old Illnesses of Poverty?

Racist HIV Myth Hides Ruthless U.S. Exploitation.

Unlike in the United States, AIDS in Africa is most frequently diagnosed based on four very imprecise clinical symptoms—diarrhea, fever, persistent cough, and weight loss greater than 10% over two months. *HIV antibody tests are not required to diagnose a case of African AIDS.* These four clinical symptoms are identical to the problems created by conditions of poverty that have troubled Africa and other developing areas of the world for centuries. In fact, symptoms of the so-called African AIDS epidemic are indistinguishable from the effects of malnutrition, unsanitary drinking and bathing water, and common curable conditions like malaria, cholera, tuberculosis, and parasitic infections.

Rather than solve the problems of African poverty caused by centuries of ruthless Western exploitation, the U.S. government insists on broadcasting the doomsday notion that Africa is suddenly gripped by a deadly, spreading sexual plague. According to these American health authorities, salvation from sickness can only be found in profitable pills manufactured by the white West and exported to black Africa.

America's Racist HIV Myth

The idea that AIDS originated in Africa is a popular myth without any scientific or epidemiological evidence. News reports that blame AIDS on African green monkeys are based upon elaborate speculation about species-jumping viruses rather than reliable proof. Tall tales about the spread of AIDS are promoted through the most vulgar and racist sexual stereotypes about promiscuous African people.

Still, the numbers speak for themselves. According to the 1999 *WHO Global HIV/AIDS Report,* the total number of AIDS cases in Africa virtually equals the total number of cases in America even though Africa, with its 650 million citizens, has more than two times the population of the United States. Africa is often cited as a worst case example of what could happen in America despite figures demonstrating that 99.5% of Africans do not have AIDS, and among Africans who test HIV positive, 97% do not have AIDS.

The Truth About African AIDS:

- **HIV antibody tests are not required for an AIDS diagnosis in Africa.**
- **African AIDS is diagnosed by four very imprecise clinical symptoms:**
  - **Diarrhea**
  - **Fever**
  - **Persistent cough**
  - **Weight loss greater than 10% over two months**
- **Tuberculosis, malaria, and measles far outnumber cases of AIDS in Africa.**
- **AIDS is not the leading cause of illness or death in any African nation.**

While Africa is the frequent target of damaging AIDS media reports, the total number of cases on the continent is relatively small. For example, from 1981 through 1999 cumulative AIDS cases for South Africa, the area claimed hardest hit by HIV, were just 12,825.

Exporting Extermination: AIDS Pills Kill!

It is undeniable that experimental AIDS treatments like protease inhibitors and AZT are all highly toxic, dangerous products. Strokes, muscle wasting, anemia, physical deformities, dementia, birth defects, organ failure, and death are some of the "side effects" of these poisons. Thousands of gay men in the 1980s and 1990s died from AZT poisoning. Now the U.S. State Department has elevated AIDS to the level of a threat to national security in order to gain public support for exporting AZT to pregnant African women. Outspoken leaders like South African President Thabo Mbeki—hard pressed to explain why developing nations stricken with famine and civil chaos should spend what little money they have on toxic anti-HIV drugs while millions starve—are relentlessly attacked as unfit and crazy by racist Western media outlets.

We invite you to investigate the growing international controversy over the cause and treatment of AIDS for yourself. Clip and mail the coupon below for a free copy of the groundbreaking book *What If Everything You Thought You Knew About AIDS Was Wrong?* by AIDS survivor Christine Maggiore.

Fight the AID$ Fraud!

ACT UP San Francisco is the AIDS Coalition To Unleash Power—a militant, direct action organization committed to ending the AIDS fraud. General body meetings are held every Monday night at 7:30 p.m. at 1884 Market Street and our medical marijuana dispensary is open 12:00 to 7:00 p.m. Tuesday through Sunday. Get involved. Join ACT UP! End the abuse of AIDS.

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CCBPP STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

The Commemoration Committee for the Black Panther Party (CCBPP) is committed to the goals of the Black Panther Party (BPP) as outlined in its Ten-Point Program which was written in 1966 by Party founders Dr. Huey P. Newton and Bobby Seale.

The Ten-Point Program outlines goals and objectives toward changing conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression in all low-income and working class communities in the U.S. and elsewhere, as the basis for unity and solidarity.

Also, the CCBPP is committed to the concept of Revolutionary Intercommunalism, introduced by Dr. Newton in 1970 at Boston College. Our Revolutionary Intercommunalism holds that there are basically two sides. On one side there is reactionary intercommunalism which presently holds the world's low-income and working communities under conditions of economic exploitation and political oppression by controlling the wealth, resources and institutions in order to maximize profits for the few. Huey identified this side as the leading reactionary side (the ruling class) which consists of a minority, fewer than five percent of the world population. Under these conditions, reactionary intercommunalism, by and large, keeps the poor and working communities on a cycle of degradation, under conditions of reaction, desperation and poverty, with no end in sight. Newton understood that in order to change these conditions and advance the economic and cultural interests of these oppressed communities of the world, disciplined organizations must be built from the bottom up, enabling these low-income and working communities to fight exploitation and oppression by any means necessary (this fight needs to start in the advanced industrialized U.S. because our nation leads the world in political reaction and economic exploitation). CCBPP advances and upholds the goals which the BPP outlined in its Ten-Point Program, and those goals are about ridding black ghettos and low-income and working communities of economic exploitation and political oppression, understanding that we can reach these goals only by seizing the time at the point of practice.

Black Panther Party Ten-Point Program

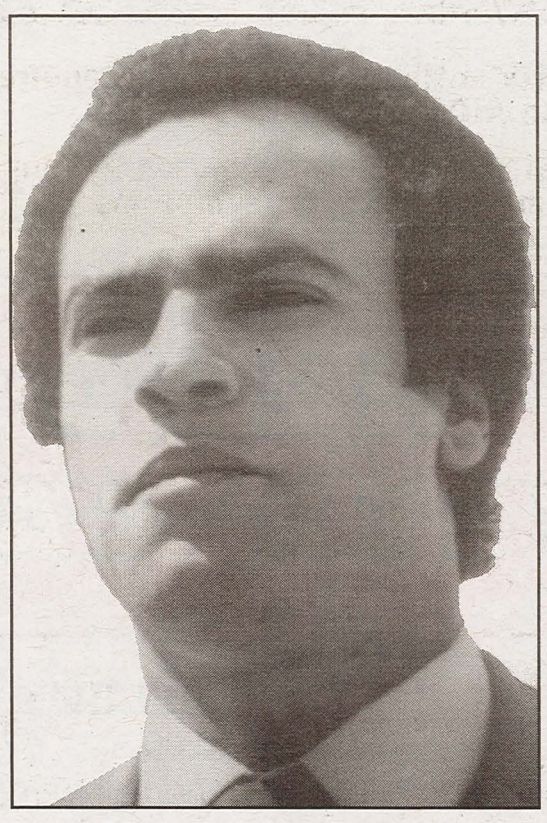
WHAT WE WANT, WHAT WE BELIEVE

1. WE WANT FREEDOM, WE WANT POWER TO DETERMINE THE DESTINY OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that Black and oppressed people will not be free until we are able to determine our destinies in our own communities ourselves, by fully controlling all the institutions that exist in our communities.

2. WE WANT FULL EMPLOYMENT FOR OUR PEOPLE. We believe that the federal government is responsible and obligated to give every person employment or a guaranteed income. We believe that if the American businessmen will not give full employment, then the technology and means of production should be taken from the businessmen and placed in the community so that the people of the community can organize and employ all its people and give a high standard of living.

3. WE WANT AN END TO THE ROBBERY BY THE CAPITALIST OF OUR BLACK AND OPPRESSED COMMUNITIES. We believe that the racist government has robbed us and now we are demanding the overdue debt of forty acres and two mules. Forty acres and two mules were promised 100 years ago as restitution for slave labor and mass murder of Black people. We will accept the payment in currency that will be distributed to our many communities. The American racist has taken part in the slaughter of over fifty million Black people. Therefore, we feel this is a modest demand that we make.

4. WE WANT DECENT HOUSING, FIT FOR THE SHELTER OF HUMAN BEINGS. We believe that if the landlords will not give decent housing to our Black and oppressed communities, then housing and the land should be made into cooperatives so that the people in our communities, with government aid, can build and make decent housing for the people.



Black Panther Founder, Dr. Huey P. Newton

5. WE WANT EDUCATION FOR OUR PEOPLE THAT EXPOSES THE TRUE NATURE OF THIS DECADENT AMERICAN SOCIETY. WE WANT EDUCATION THAT TEACHES US OUR TRUE HISTORY AND OUR ROLE IN THE PRESENT-DAY SOCIETY. We believe in an educational system that will give to our people a knowledge of self. If you do not have knowledge of yourself and your position in the society and the world, then you will have little chance to know anything else.

6. WE WANT COMPLETELY FREE HEALTH CARE FOR ALL BLACK AND OPPRESSED PEOPLE. We believe that the government must provide, free of charge, for the people, health facilities that will not only treat our illnesses, most of which have come about as a result of our oppression, but will also develop preventive medical programs to guarantee our future survival. We believe that mass health education and research programs must be developed to give all Black and oppressed people access to advanced scientific and medical information, so we may provide ourselves with proper medical attention and care.

7. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO POLICE BRUTALITY AND MURDER OF BLACK PEOPLE, OTHER PEOPLE OF COLOR, ALL OPPRESSED PEOPLE INSIDE THE UNITED STATES. We believe that the racist and fascist government of the United States uses its domestic enforcement agencies to carry out its program of oppression against Black people, other people of color, and poor people inside the United States. We believe it is our right, therefore, to defend ourselves against such armed forces and that all Black and oppressed people should be armed for self-defense of our homes and communities against these fascist police forces.

8. WE WANT AN IMMEDIATE END TO ALL WARS OF AGGRESSION. We believe that the various conflicts which exist around the world stem directly from the aggressive desires of the U. S. ruling circle and government to force its domination upon the oppressed people of the world. We believe that if the U. S. government or its lackeys do not cease these aggressive wars that it is the right of the people to defend themselves by any means necessary against their aggressors.

9. WE WANT FREEDOM FOR ALL BLACK AND POOR OPPRESSED PEOPLE NOW HELD IN U. S. FEDERAL, STATE, COUNTY, CITY, AND MILITARY PRISONS AND JAILS. WE WANT TRIALS BY A JURY OF PEERS FOR ALL PERSONS ARE CHARGED WITH SO-CALLED CRIMES UNDER THE LAWS OF THIS COUNTRY. We believe that the many Black and poor oppressed people now held in U. S. prisons and jails have not received fair and impartial trials under a racist and fascist judicial system and should be free from incarceration. We believe in the ultimate elimination of all wretched, inhuman penal institutions, because the masses of men and women imprisoned inside the United States or by the U. S. military are the victims of oppressive conditions that are the real cause of their imprisonment. We believe that when persons brought to trial that they must be guaranteed, by the United States, juries of their peers, attorneys of their choice and freedom from imprisonment while awaiting trials.

10. WE WANT LAND, BREAD, HOUSING, EDUCATION, CLOTHING, JUSTICE, PEACE AND PEOPLE'S COMMUNITY CONTROL OF MODERN TECHNOLOGY. When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume, among the powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the laws of nature and nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights; that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. That, to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed; that, whenever any form of government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the right of the people to alter or to abolish it, and to institute a new government, laying its foundation on such principles, and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to affect their safety and happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and, accordingly, all experience hath shown that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But, when a long train of abuses and usurpation, pursuing invariably the same object, evinces a design to reduce them under absolute despotism. It is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such government, and to provide new guards for their future security.

Don's Headquarters

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West Oakland Environmental Indicators Project

2nd Annual Willow Fest Community Party

Celebrating

Good People Doing Good Works in West Oakland

Food and Refreshments

Entertainment from DJ Goodbeer

Live performances from Conscious Hip-Hop and other artists from Superdudes Media Group

Free asthma testing and services for children and their families from the Breathmobile, operated by Prescott Joseph Center

Sponsored by:

Bikes 4 Life, Mandela Foods Cooperative & People's Federal Credit Union

July 31st, 2010 11 am

Willow Park

(14th and Willow Street Oakland)

Healthy Oakland

A Project of Healthy Communities, Inc.

"Saving Lives"

Contact Us for Food Stamp Enrollment!

We Are Here to Assist
You With Your Medical Needs
At Our State Licensed Clinic!

Monday – Friday (9 am – 1 pm)

Tuesday & Thursday (6 pm – 8 pm)

Men & Women

18 Years Old & Older

2580 San Pablo Avenue

(Cross Street is 26th Street)

Oakland, CA 94612

Family Resource Center – (510) 444-9655

Save A Life Wellness Center – (510) 444-9155

CCBPP NEEDS YOU!
VOLUNTEER CALENDAR

Sunday-

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Literature Table
3:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Volunteer Class
7:00 PM -10:00 PM	Volunteer Phone Training

Monday-

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Volunteer Orientation
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Mailout
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Membership Canvass
6:30 PM - 10:00 PM	Tutor-Training Session
6:30 PM - 9:00 PM	Volunteer Phone Training

Tuesday-

10:00 AM - 2:00 PM	Sponsorship Phoning
2:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Business Canvass

Wednesday-

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Volunteer Orientation
10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Speaking Engagement Phoning
1:30 PM - 5:30 PM	Literature Table
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Volunteer Class
6:30 PM - 9:30 PM	Publication Session

Thursday-

10:00 AM - 12 Noon	Mailout
1:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Literature Table
6:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Mailout Call Backs

Friday-

10:00 AM - 12:00 PM	Mailout
3:00 PM - 6:00 PM	Literature Table
7:00 PM - 9:00 PM	Volunteer Class

Saturday-

9:00 AM - 10:00 AM	Volunteer Orientation
10:00 AM - 3:00 PM	Organizer Training
11:00 AM - 3:30 PM	Membership Canvass
1:00 PM - 3:30 PM	Publication Session
3:30 PM - 4:30 PM	Weekly Staff Meeting

Call to schedule a time to volunteer today!

(510) 652-7170